Grand Commandery

of

Knights Templars

and the Appendant Orders

of

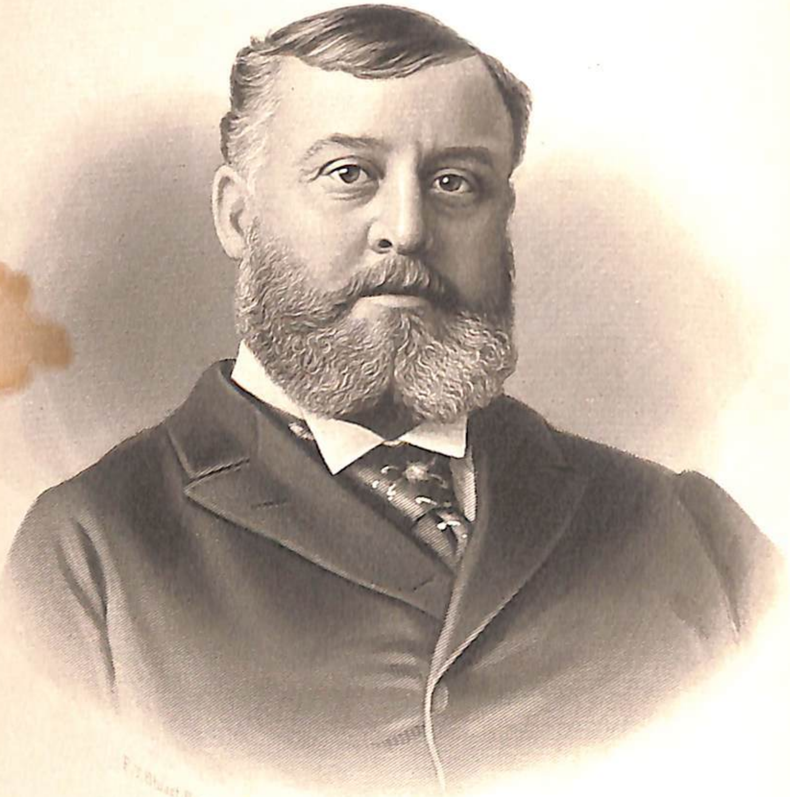
Massachusetts and Rhode Island

IN HOC SIGNO VINCES,
MAGNA EST VERITAS, ET PREVALEBIT.

Proceedings

For the Year ending October 31

1896



Eugene H. Richards

PROCEEDINGS

of the

Grand Commandery of Knights Templars

and the

APPENDANT ORDERS

of

MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND

For the Year ending [illegible]

R. E. Sir Eugene H. [illegible]
E. Sir Benjamin [illegible]

[illegible]

Eugene H. Richards

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand Commandery of Knights Templars

AND THE

APPENDANT ORDERS

OF

MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 29, 1896.

R. E. SIR EUGENE H. RICHARDS, GRAND COMMANDER.
E. SIR BENJAMIN W. ROWELL, GRAND RECORDER.

CENTRAL FALLS:
E. L. FREEMAN & SONS, PRINTERS,
1896.

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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island,

AT ITS

SEMI-ANNUAL CONCLAVE,

MAY 28, 1896.

THE 90TH SEMI-ANNUAL CONCLAVE of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island was held in Hodges Hall, in the City of Providence, R. I., on Tuesday, May 28th, A. D. 1896, A. O. 778.

GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT.

Sir EUGENE H. RICHARDS	R. E. Grand Commander.
Sir WILLIAM R. WALKER	V. E. Deputy Grand Commander.
Sir WALTER CUTTING	Em. Grand Generalissimo.
Sir GEORGE L. SHEPLEY	Em. Grand Captain General.
Sir Rev. THOMAS E. ST. JOHN	Em. Grand Prelate.
Sir HERBERT F. MORSE	Em. Grand Senior Warden.
Sir WINTHROP MESSENGER	Em. Grand Junior Warden.
Sir JAMES H. UPHAM	Em. Grand Treasurer.
Sir BENJAMIN W. ROWELL	Em. Grand Recorder.

Sir George E. Hilton................Em. Grand Standard Bearer.
Sir Henry G. Jordan. .... Em. Grand Sword Bearer.
Sir Freeman C. Hersey...... ....Em. Grand Warder.
Sir Dana J. Flanders....... ....Em. Grand Captain of Guards.
Sir Henry S. Rowe...................Em. Grand Lecturer.
Sir Arthur B. Codding............... " "
Sir J. Frank Child........... ......Em. Grand Sentinel.

PERMANENT MEMBERS BEING PAST GRAND OFFICERS WHO WERE PRESENT.

R. E. Sir Rev. Henry W. Rugg,
R. E. Sir Charles C. Hutchinson,
R. E. Sir George H. Burnham,
R. E. Sir Charles C. Fry,
R. E. Sir Samuel C. Lawrence,
R. E. Sir Charles A. Stott,
R. E. Sir George H. Allen,
R. E. Sir James Swords,
R. E. Sir Robert H. Chamberlain,
R. E. Sir William H. H. Soule.

MEMBERS BEING PAST COMMANDERS WHO WERE REGISTERED AS BEING PRESENT.

*Allen, George H.,
Bishop, James M.,
Bunton, Henry S.,
Bowen, J. Herbert,
Bestor, Owen B.,
Burt, E D.,
Brown, Rufus G.,
*Codding, Arthur E.,
*Child, J. Frank,
*Cutting, Walter,
Carr, Walter S .
Crosby. Alfred R.,
Cudworth, Jesse,
*Chamberlain, Robert H .
Chase, Charles T.,
Chase, Daniel E.,
Cushman, Albert H.,
Chessman, William H.,
Dennis, Arthur W.,
Evans, Thomas J.,
Fisher, William,
*Flanders, Dana J.,
Field, Herbert,
*Fry, Charles C.,
Farnsworth, William A.,
Gardner, E. C ,
Hartley, Alfred H.,
Husband, William E.,
Harrington, Smith B.,
Holmes, Zacheus,
Hill, John B.,
*Hutchinson, Charles C.,
*Hilton, George E.,
Heathcote, John,
*Hersey, Freeman C.,
Humphrey, William,
*Jordan, Henry G.,
Kingman, George W.,
Kirby, Charles L.,
Kenyon, George H.,
Learned, William B.,
Litchfield, Charles I.,
*Lawrence, Samuel C.,
Massey, Dudley A.,
Matteson, Theo. V.,
*Morse, Herbert F.,
*Messenger, Winthrop,
McCreery, James E.,

---

* Represented in Grand or Past Grand Officers.

Nerney, Peter,
Pierce, Charles E.,
Peabody, Charles A.,
*Richards, Eugene H.,
*Rowell, Benjamin W.,
*Rowe, Henry S.,
Read, J. Sewell,
*Rugg, Henry W.,
Robinson, William,
Smith, Henry P.,
Sherman, James L.,
Sweet, George A.,
Senior, Daniel W.,
Stephens, Eugene,
Stacy, George E.,
*Swords, James,
*Soule, William H. H.,
Sampson, W. W.,
*Shepley, George L.,
*St. John, Rev. Thomas E.,
*Stott, Charles A.,
Tillinghast, James E.,
Taylor, James,
*Upham, James H.,
Wilcox, William E.,
Witt, Charles T.

The following Representatives of the Subordinate Commanderies were registered as being present at this Conclave:

St. John's Commandery.

†———————Em. Com.
Charles C. Newhall, Gen'lo.
Walter W. Burnham, Capt. Gen'l.

Boston Commandery.

Henry H. Litchfield, Em. Com.
William B. Lawrence, Gen'lo.
J. Gilman Waite, Capt. Gen'l.

Newburyport Commandery.

Charles F. Worthen, Em. Com.

Worcester County Commandery.

A. Frank Gates, Em. Com.

Springfield Commandery.

Samuel D. Sherwood, Gen'lo.

De Molay Commandery.

Frank W. Mead, Capt. Gen'l.

Calvary Commandery.

Frederick G. Stiles, Em. Com.

Haverhill Commandery.

William L. Smart, Capt. Gen'l.

Sutton Commandery.

William H. Waterman, Em. Com.
S. A. Brownell, Capt. Gen'l.

Bethany Commandery.

Smith M. Decker, Em. Com.

Winslow Lewis Commandery.

Thomas G. Pinnock, Em. Com.

Jerusalem Commandery.

Joseph G. Edgerly, Em. Com.

Hugh de Payens Commandery.

Edward K. Boardman, Em. Com.
Heman J. Pettengill, Gen'lo.

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* Represented in Grand or Past Grand Officers.
† Represented by Proxy.

St. Omer Commandery.

James Hill, Em. Com.
William H. Puffer, Gen'lo.
Thomas F. Christian, Capt. Gen'l.

Woonsocket Commandery.

Fred W. Arnold, Em. Com.
A. B. White, Gen'lo.
†—————— Capt. Gen'l.

Godfrey de Bouillon Commandery.

John D. Munroe, Em. Com.
J. M Davis, Gen'lo.
Dwight E. Cone, Capt. Gen'l.

Joseph Warren Commandery.

Charles E. Draper, Em. Com.

Narragansett Commandery.

Walter S. Legate, Em. Com.
Edwin H. Babcock, Gen'lo.
D. C. Hinckley, Capt. Gen'l.

William Parkman Commandery.

William G. Smith, Em. Com.
Edward G. Graves, Gen'lo.
Charles A. Estey, Capt. Gen'l.

Bristol Commandery.

A. R. Crosby, Em. Com.
George H. Sykes, Gen'lo.
Leo A. Heilborn, Capt. Gen'l.

Northampton Commandery.

H. R. Chase, Em. Com.
Arthur B. Lee, Gen'lo.
L. L. Campbell, Capt. Gen'l.

South Shore Commandery.

Francis A. Bicknell, Em. Com.
F. H. Mason, Gen'lo.

Natick Commandery.

John J. Van Valkenburgh, E. Com.

Coeur de Lion Commandery.

Joel H. Whiton, Em. Com.

Olivet Commandery.

Rufus E. Hilliard, Em. Com.
Charles A. Alley, Gen'lo.
Thomas W. Rogers, Capt. Gen'l.

Bay State Commandery.

John A. Jackson, Em. Com.

Cyprus Commandery.

George Miles, Em. Com.
G. Walter Capen, Gen'lo.

St. Paul Commandery.

Hobart C. Tower, Em. Com.

Beauseant Commandery.

Fred'k T. Hawley, Em. Com.
George L. Griffin, Gen'lo.
Albert L. Decatur, Capt. Gen'l.

Cambridge Commandery.

Charles M. Pear, Em. Com.
John G. Thorogood, Gen'lo.
Francis L. Sawtell, Capt. Gen'l.

St George Commandery.

Samuel A. F. Whipple, Em. Com.

Orange Commandery.

George A. Drake, Em. Com.
Warren M. King, Gen'lo.
Clarence A. Smith, Capt. Gen'l.

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† Represented by Proxy.

One hundred and fifty-five Sir Knights signed the register as being present at this Conclave.

The roll of Commanderies was called and the following responded:

Name of Commandery.		Location of Commandery.
St. John	No. 1	Providence, R. I.
Boston	" 2	Boston, Mass.
Newburyport	" 3	Newburyport, Mass.
Washington	" 4	Newport, R. I.
Worcester County	" 5	Worcester, Mass.
Springfield	" 6	Springfield, Mass.
De Molay	" 7	Boston, Mass.
Holy Sepulchre	" 8	Pawtucket, R. I.
Pilgrim	" 9	Lowell, Mass.
Palestine	" 10	Chelsea, Mass.
Milford	" 11	Milford, Mass.
St. Bernard	" 12	Boston, Mass.
Calvary	" 13	Providence, R. I.
Haverhill	" 14	Haverhill, Mass.
Sutton	" 16	New Bedford, Mass.
Bethany	" 17	Lawrence, Mass.
Winslow Lewis	" 18	Salem, Mass.
Jerusalem	" 19	Fitchburg, Mass.
Hugh de Payens	" 20	Melrose, Mass.
St. Omer	" 21	South Boston, Mass.
Berkshire	" 22	Pittsfield, Mass.
Woonsocket	" 24	Woonsocket, R. I.
Godfrey de Bouillon	" 25	Fall River, Mass.
Joseph Warren	" 26	Roxbury, Mass.
Narragansett	" 27	Westerly, R. I.
William Parkman	" 28	East Boston, Mass.
Bristol	" 29	North Attleboro, Mass.
Northampton	" 30	Northampton, Mass.
South Shore	" 31	East Weymouth, Mass.
Trinity	" 32	Hudson, Mass.
Natick	" 33	Natick, Mass.
Cœur de Lion	" 34	Charlestown, Mass.
Gethsemane	" 35	Newtonville, Mass.
Olivet	" 36	Lynn, Mass.
Bay State	" 38	Brockton, Mass.
Cyprus	" 39	Hyde Park, Mass.

NAME OF COMMANDERY.		LOCATION OF COMMANDERY.
St. Paul	No. 40	North Adams, Mass.
Beauseant	" 41	Malden, Mass.
Cambridge	" 42	Cambridge, Mass.
St. George	" 44	Beverly, Mass.
Orange	" 45	Orange, Mass.

The Representatives from Old Colony, Connecticut Valley, Athol and Bethlehem Commanderies were absent.

A constitutional number of the members being present, the Grand Commandery was called to order, the lines having been formed, the R. E. Grand Commander, Sir Eugene H. Richards, and other Grand Officers were received in due form, and after devotions conducted by the Grand Prelate, Sir Rev. Thomas E. St. John, the 90th Semi-Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island was opened in Ample Form.

The Records of the Annual Conclave of October, 1895, having been printed and distributed, the reading thereof was dispensed with.

COMMITTEE OF THE DAY.

The R. E. Grand Commander stated that he had appointed E. Sirs Clinton D. Sellew and John Heathcote, a Committee of the Day, and that a collation would be served at one o'clock, P. M., under their supervision.

SEMI ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE R. E. GRAND COMMANDER.

Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery:

It is with a heart full of gratitude to, and love for the Great Creator, for the many blessings which he gives us to enjoy, that I cordially welcome you to this our ninetieth Semi-Annual Conclave. We meet in peace and harmony with each other and with all our sister Grand Commanderies, rejoicing in the prosperity of our Order, and the high standing to which it has attained in the estimation of the nation and the world. Let us resolve, that while life shall last, we will by precept and example do all in our power to preserve it in, and if possible, to elevate it yet higher than, the proud position it now holds.

The hand of death has mercifully been withheld, and not one member of this Grand Commandery has fallen in the battle of life since our last Conclave. But, in the Subordinate Commanderies, many a valued name has been added to the roll of the departed. Seven of our Sister Grand Commanderies have been called upon to mourn the loss of distinguished and beloved members, and we tenderly offer them our Knightly sympathy in their affliction.

Right Eminent Sir William Caldwell Belcher, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of California, died September 1st, 1895. "He was a valiant Templar, a wise counselor, an ardent friend, a noble Christian gentleman."

Right Eminent Sir Grant Weidman, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, died at his home in Lebanon, Penn., Nov. 11th, 1895. "He was elected Grand Commander in 1873, and had been constant in his attendance at the Conclaves of the Grand Commandery, leaving a splendid Masonic record."

> "There is no death, 'tis but a change of life,
> And ever near us though unseen
> The dear immortal spirits tread."

Eminent Sir Robert B. McKnight, Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, died on shipboard, on his way home from Europe, Nov. 27th, 1895. "As a jurist, citizen, and Mason, he was above reproach."

Right Eminent Sir Knight, Henry H. Tatem, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Ohio, died Dec. 1st, 1895, at his home in Hartwell, Ohio. He was elected Grand Commander in September 1881–1882, and was Chairman of the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence from 1885 to the time of his decease. "In the performance of the duties of this position he was always courteous and affable, but firm in his convictions of right and law, and held the respect and love of all parties in any matter in which he might be called on for a decision."

Right Eminent Sir Thomas C. Chittenden, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of New York, died at his home in Watertown, N. Y., Feb. 3d, 1896. He was elected Right Eminent Grand Commander in 1879. "He was indeed a true and courteous Knight, and has fallen in life's struggles, full Knightly, with his armor on."

Very Eminent Sir Knight Edward M. Nadal, Past Deputy Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of North Carolina, died April 13th, 1896. "He was a true soldier of the cross, and was honored by his church, his Commandery, and his fellow citizens."

Right Eminent Sir Erville B. Bishop, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Ohio, died at his home in Dayton, Ohio, April 19th, 1896. "The sad and mournful funeral knell has betokened that another spirit has winged its flight."

Nov. 4th, I issued General Order No. 1, assigning to the inspecting officers the Commanderies which they were to inspect, as follows:—

GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLARS AND THE APPENDANT ORDERS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND.

OFFICE OF THE R. E. GRAND COMMANDER,
BOSTON, MASS., NOV. 4, A. D. 1895, A. O. 777.

GENERAL ORDERS,
SERIES 1895–96.
No. 1.

The several Commanderies within this Jurisdiction are assigned for Official Visitation and Inspection, as follows:

To V. Em. SIR WILLIAM R. WALKER, Deputy Grand Commander....	Springfield. De Molay. Palestine. Milford. Old Colony.
To Em. SIR WALTER CUTTING, Grand Generalissimo......	Newburyport. Worcester County. Pilgrim. Haverhill. Sutton.
To Em. SIR GEORGE L. SHEPLEY, Grand Captain-General...............	Boston. Washington. Jerusalem. St. Omer. Bay State.
To Em. SIR HERBERT F. MORSE, Grand Senior Warden..........................	Woonsocket. Narragansett. Bristol. South Shore. Trinity.
To Em. SIR WINTHROP MESSENGER, Grand Junior Warden........	Saint Bernard. Calvary. Winslow Lewis. Olivet. Orange.
To Em. SIR GEORGE E. HILTON, Grand Standard Bearer..................................	Saint Johns. Hugh de Payens.
To Em. SIR HENRY G. JORDAN, Grand Sword Bearer..................................	Joseph Warren. Cambridge.
To Em. SIR HENRY S. ROWE, Grand Lecturer	Godfrey de Bouillon. William Parkman. Natick. Cœur de Lion.
To Em. SIR ALBERT WHITE, Grand Lecturer.	Bethany. Gethsemane. Cyprus. Beauseant.
To Em. SIR EDMUND P. KENDRICK, Grand Lecturer................................	Berkshire. Conn. Valley. Northampton. Saint Paul.
To Em. SIR ARTHUR E. CODDING, Grand Lecturer	Holy Sepulchre. Athol. Bethlehem. Saint George.

The Inspecting Officers will report to the Grand Commander on or before October 1, 1896, the condition of the Commanderies assigned to them. The Grand Commander requests the Eminent Commander of each Subordinate Commandery to send a notice of each Conclave to him and also to the Inspecting Officer assigned to said Commandery during this Templar year.

This Order will be read at the head of each Commandery at the first stated Conclave after its receipt.

EUGENE H. RICHARDS,
Grand Commander.

Attest:
B. W. Rowell,
Grand Recorder.

On receipt from the Committee on Christmas Observance of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, of the toast prepared, I issued to each Commandery in the jurisdiction, General Order No. 2:

Grand Commandery of Knights Templars and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Office of the R. E. Grand Commander,
7 Green St., Boston, Mass.

General Orders,
No. 2.
Series of 1895–96.

To all Knights Templars within the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery.

Dear Fraters: The Committee on Christmas Observance of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America has prepared the following toast:

To our Most Eminent Grand Master, W. LaRue Thomas:

Your duty to command: our duty to obey;
May Christ, our Heavenly Master, bless and point the way.

The Grand Master sends the following response:

To the Noble Fraters of a Noble Order:

To command with love, to obey with love,
Will meet the approval of Christ above.

The Committee requests "all true Templars and their friends, wherever dispersed, on land or sea, to join in these sentiments, on Wednesday, December 25, A. D. 1895, A. O. 777, at noon, Eastern Standard time."

In testimony of the loyalty of this Grand Commandery to the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, and of our respect and affection for the Grand Master, let every Sir Knight, at the specified time, join with the Grand Commander in sending greetings to Most Eminent Grand Master W. LaRue Thomas, wishing him a Merry Christmas and the full enjoyment of peace, health and happiness.

It is ordered that this Notice be read at the head of each Commandery at, and borne upon the notice of, the Stated Conclave next preceding December 25, A. D. 1895, A. O. 777.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, this 29th day of November, A. D. 1895, A. O. 777.

EUGENE H. RICHARDS,
Grand Commander.

Attest:
B. W. Rowell,
Grand Recorder.

Most of the Commanderies of the jurisdiction issued a copy of this order either on their regular notices or by a special notice. Many Commanderies met and sent greeting to the Grand Master. Many also sent kind and brotherly messages to the Grand Commander, which he acknowledged as evidences of personal regard and loyalty to the Grand Commandery.

INSTALLATIONS.

Nov. 18th, 1895, during a regular Conclave and in the Asylum of St. Omer Commandery, I installed into their respective offices: Eminent Sir Albert H. White, Grand Lecturer; Eminent Sir J. Frank Child, Grand Sentinel.

Nov. 29th, 1895, during a regular Conclave and in the Asylum of Bristol Commandery, I installed into his office: Eminent Sir Arthur E. Codding, Grand Lecturer.

Dec. 2d, 1895, during a regular Conclave and in the Asylum of Springfield Commandery, Right Eminent Sir Edward P. Chapin, Past Grand Commander, installed into his office, Eminent Sir Edmund P. Kendrick, Grand Lecturer.

DISPENSATIONS.

Dispensations have been granted to the following Commanderies:

To Godfrey de Bouillon Commandery, the Sir Knight elected Prelate at the annual Conclave, Oct. 21st, 1895, having declined to accept the office, to proceed with the election of Prelate at its regular Conclave, Nov. 18th, notice of the proposed action being borne upon the notices for that Conclave.

To Springfield Commandery, to bury with Knightly honors, Sir Knight Gustav Charles, a suspended member.

To Joseph Warren Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform, with music and banners, March 23d, 1896, to attend at the Methodist Church in Mattapan, the dedication of a Knight Templar memorial window.

To Calvary Commandery, to hold its regular Conclave, April 7th, 1896, at the Asylum of Holy Sepulchre Commanery, Pawtucket, R. I., its Asylum having been burned.

To Trinity Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform, without music, on Sunday morning, Dec. 22d, 1895, to attend divine service at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Hudson.

To Bay State Commandery, to ballot at a special Conclave to be held at 3.30 P. M., on the day of their regular Conclave, June 13, 1896, on the two candidates for the Order of Knighthood, proposed at their regular Conclave, May 18th, 1896, notice of proposed action to be borne upon the notice for the Conclave.

To St. John's Commandery, to hold its regular Conclave, April 6th, 1896, at the Asylum of Holy Sepulchre Commandery, Pawtucket, R. I., its Asylum having been burned.

To Jerusalem Commandery, to ballot at a special Conclave to be held at 4 P. M., on the day of their regular Conclave, May 21st, 1896, on the names of candidates for the orders, proposed at their regular Conclave, April 16th, 1896, notice of proposed action to be borne upon the notice for the Conclave.

To Bethlehem Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform, with music and banners, on the 17th and 18th of June, 1896, for the purpose of visiting Sullivan Commandery, Claremont, New Hampshire, permission to enter his jurisdiction having been granted by the Grand Commander of New Hampshire, Right Eminent Sir Daniel C. Roberts.

To Washington Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform, with music and banners, on Wednesday, May 27th, to receive and escort Eminent Sir George L. Shepley, Grand Captain General, who visits Newport on that date to inspect Washington Commandery.

To Bay State Commandery, to ballot at a special Conclave to be held at 3.30 P. M., on the day of its regular Conclave, June 15th, 1896, on the two candidates for the orders of Knighthood proposed at its regular Conclave, May 18th, 1896, notice of the proposed action to be borne upon the notice of the official and regular Conclave.

To two Commanderies to ballot upon one candidate each, in less than four weeks from the time the candidates were proposed, each member of said Commanderies receiving timely notice of the proposed action.

I declined to grant Dispensations in quite a number of cases to ballot in less than four weeks, feeling that there was no emergency requiring them.

I received so many applications for Dispensations to attend religious services on Easter Sunday, April 5th, that I issued, March 20th, 1896, this Dispensation (as General Order No. 3) to each Commandery in this jurisdiction:

GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLARS AND THE APPENDANT ORDERS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND COMMANDER,
7 Green St., BOSTON, MASS.,
March 20, 1896.

GENERAL ORDERS
No. 3.
SERIES OF 1895-96.

To all Knights Templars within the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery.

DEAR FRATERS: Many of the Commanderies of this jurisdiction are desirous of attending in uniform, religious services on Easter Sunday, April 5, 1896.

Recognizing this fact, I, by virtue of the power in me vested as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, do hereby grant this my dispensation authorizing any Commandery in this jurisdiction to parade in full Knight Templar Uniform, with banners if desired, but without music, on Sunday, April 5, 1896, to attend religious services at any suitable place.

The Nineteen Commanderies invited by Sir Knight Rev. George C. Lorimer to participate in services in Boston, will assemble at the corner of Tremont and Boylston streets at two o'clock in full Templar uniform, without music or banners.

Due and proper return will be made to me of the action had under this authority, and this dispensation filed in the Archives of the Commandery.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Grand Commandery this twentieth day of March, A. D. 1896, A. O. 778.

EUGENE H. RICHARDS,
Grand Commander.

Attest:
B. W. Rowell,
Grand Recorder.

Easter Sunday was a red letter day for Templar Masonry in this jurisdiction. Nearly all the Grand Officers, a large number of Past Grand Officers, and sixteen Commanderies located in and near Boston, with sixteen hundred and seventy-two Sir Knights in line, accepted the kind invitation of Rev. Sir Knight George C. Lorimer, D. D., and attended religious services under his charge at Music Hall, Boston, at 3 P. M., Sunday, April 5th. The service was glorious and impressive. The music, with a chorus of Christian Endeavorers of four hundred voices to assist, the several participations by the Sir Knights in the music and services, the immense auditorium crowded with Sir Knights and citizens together, inspired all hearts with the most exalted sentiments and left a lasting memory in the minds of those who were present.

Seven Commanderies in other parts of the jurisdiction with four hundred and thirty-two Sir Knights in all, in line, attended religious services on Easter Sunday.

I issued Dispensations to Joseph Warren, Gethsemane and Cambridge Commanderies to parade May 13th, Ascension Eve, and to William Parkman and Palestine Commanderies to parade, May 14th, Ascension Day, in full Templar uniform, with music and banners, to attend religious services. Also to Cœur de Lion and Orange Commanderies to parade in full Templar uniform, without music, on Sunday, May 17, Ascension Sunday, to attend religious services. All of these Commanderies paraded on the dates named, in goodly numbers, and the exercises were very successfully carried out. In this connection I cannot speak too strongly of my approval of the growing practice of the Commanderies of this jurisdiction of attending divine service on these Holy days. It is a blessing to the Sir Knights attending and highly creditable to the Order.

DECISIONS.

I have been called upon for but a few decisions upon questions of government and practice by the Commanderies. The Eminent Commander of Newburyport Commandery inquired, sending papers connected with the matter, as to the legality of an assessment levied upon all the members of Newburyport Commandery, at a special Conclave held July 4th, 1895, notice of same being sent to all the members, said assessments to aid in meeting expenses of the Triennial Celebration.

I answered that the assessment made by Newburyport Commandery was legally made, having been voted at a special Conclave, in the call for which the business to be transacted was stated. That I based my decision on Section 4 of the Code of Statutes of the Grand Encampment, pages 26–27.

Communications have been received from the Grand Commanders of New Hampshire and Maine that two of the Commanderies of this jurisdiction had severally conferred the Orders of Knighthood upon a candidate who had been rejected by a Commandery of their jurisdiction, without a release of jurisdiction by said Commandery.

I reported the complaint to the two Commanderies of this jurisdiction and in due time received apologies from them for their error, and forwarded same to the Grand Commanders of New Hampshire and Maine, and await their action upon the matter at issue.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

The following commissions have been issued to Grand Representatives of this Grand Commandery near other Grand Commanderies:

Alabama	H. Clay Armstrong	Montgomery, Ala.
Arizona	Charles H. Knapp	Phœnix, Ari.
California	Charles F. Lott	Oroville, Cal.
Dist. Columbia	Clement W. Bennett	Washington, D. C.
Florida	William H. Jewell	Orlando, Fla.
Illinois	Phil. W. Barclay	Cairo, Ill.
Indian Ter.	Edward H. Doyle	Muskogee, I. T.
Mississippi	Benjamin A. Vaughan	Columbus, Miss.
Missouri	Reuben Barney	Chillicothe, Mo.
Pennsylvania	John P. S. Gobin	Lebanon, Pa.
So. Dakota	John H. Babcock	Mitchell, S. D.
Vermont	Wm. H. S. Whitcomb	Burlington, Vt.
Washington	Horace W. Tyler	Spokane, Wash.
Wyoming	Francis E. Warren	Cheyenne, Wyo.

The following commissions have been received for Grand Representatives of other Grand Commanderies near the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

California	James Swords	Boston, Mass.
Dist. Columbia	Samuel C. Lawrence	Medford, Mass.
Florida	Henry S. Rowe	Boston, Mass.
Georgia	Henry G. Jordan	Boston, Mass.
Illinois	Newton D. Arnold	Providence, R. I.
Iowa	George H Kenyon	Providence, R. I.
Maryland	George H. Burnham	Providence, R. I.
Minnesota	Charles A. Stott	Lowell, Mass.
Missouri	Charles C. Hutchinson	Lowell, Mass.
Montana	Winthrop Messenger	Melrose, Mass.
Indian Ter.	Eugene H. Richards	Boston, Mass.
Nebraska	Rev Henry W. Rugg	Providence, R. I.
North Dakota	Charles E. Pierce	South Boston, Mass.
Pennsylvania	Arthur G. Pollard	Lowell, Mass.
Vermont	Robert H. Chamberlain	Worcester, Mass.
Washington	Samuel B. Spooner	Springfield, Mass.

I feel that the great misfortune which befell our Fraters in Providence on the morning of March 19th, by which they lost by fire their magnificent Temple with all its contents, among which were many valuable portraits and relics which cannot be replaced, deserves some notice on the part of this Grand Commandery, and I recommend that some action be taken to express to our Providence Fraters the sympathy of this body for them in their great loss.

EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE WORK.

In compliance with the constitutional requirements that one of the Orders shall be exemplified at the Semi-Annual Conclave, I have detailed Godfrey de Bouillon Commandery of Fall River, Eminent Sir John D. Munroe, Commander, to exemplify the Order of the Temple this afternoon.

Sir Knights: The business of the Semi-Annual Conclave is before you. May Knightly courtesy and brotherly love characterize our proceedings, and may all that may be said or done be to the advancement and prosperity of our beloved Order.

Upon motion of R. E. Sir Henry W. Rugg, it was

Voted, That so much of the address as relates to Decisions and Dispensations be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence; and that the remainder of the address except that portion relating to Loss by Fire of the Fraters of R. I., be referred to a special committee of three.

And the R. E. Grand Commander appointed as the Special Committee: R. E. Sir Henry W. Rugg, Em. Sirs William G. Smith and Joel H. Whiton.

On motion it was

Voted, That a committee of three be appointed to draft resolutions expressing the sympathy and condolence felt by the Grand Body to the Fraternity of Providence, R. I., on the loss by fire of their beautiful Templar Asylum.

The R. E. Grand Commander announced as the Committee: Em. Sirs E. Bentley Young, Owen B. Bestor, and Sir Henry H. Litchfield.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON JURISDICTION OF ST. GEORGE COMMANDERY.

To the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Your Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the petition of St. George Commandery stationed at Beverly, Mass., that its jurisdiction may be made exclusive over the towns of Wenham, Hamilton and Ipswich, respectfully report that careful attention has been given the matter and the parties in interest who so desired were fully heard thereon. A map of the territory occupied by the parties was also submitted with the papers in the case.

The petition praying for leave to open St. George Commandery, stated that its location was to be in the town of Beverly as some location must be given, but that does not necessarily imply that its jurisdiction was to be confined to that town though an impression of that kind seems somehow to have gotten into the case, and it is claimed by the objectors to the granting of this petition that such was the understanding. Of this there can be no doubt, since that Commandery would naturally, as it did, hesitate to give its consent to set up another within its jurisdiction at so short distance from itself, and between it and a portion of its territory, without some understanding as to how its jurisdiction was to be affected thereby. An understanding respecting this is admitted; Winslow Lewis claims that its understanding was, that exclusive jurisdiction over Beverly was all that was asked or wanted, and under that impression gave consent. The petitioners claim that such an understanding ought now to be set aside, and Grand Commandery is asked to remove it, to which one of the parties objects.

If the half-way rule is to be strictly followed, the map clearly shows that the towns in question are entirely within the jurisdiction of St. George Commandery, and Danvers very largely so, respecting both actual distance and the usual travelled ways; but this rule if strictly followed would obliterate town lines and create great confusion respecting jurisdictional lines, and is wisely made sufficiently elastic to cover such cases as that before us seems to be. That law declares that unless otherwise specified the jurisdiction of a Subordinate Commandery extends half-way to the nearest Commanderies in the same jurisdiction, (see supplement to Code of Statutes of Grand Encampment U. S., title Jurisdiction, on page 63, Constitution of Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, etc., edition of 1888), therefore this Grand Commandery is competent to declare what the jurisdiction of its subordinates shall be. It should be remembered that these Commanderies are but two miles apart and electric cars traverse the distance between them as well as cover the roads leading to the adjacent towns; so that it appears to the Committee that both Commanderies may be reached with equal facility.

Fully considering the understanding under which the consent of Winslow Lewis Commandery, for the establishment of St. George Commandery was obtained, viz.: that it was not the intention to interfere with the jurisdiction of Winslow Lewis Commandery except so far as making it concurrent would do, the Committee were confronted by the fact that all candidates coming from any of these towns over which St. George asks exclusive jurisdiction must pass directly by that Commandery to reach Winslow Lewis. This fact was disclosed by an examination of the map and seemed to the Committee an awkward arrangement, to terminate which might be to the advantage of all parties concerned.

The Committee recommend the passage of the accompanying resolution

Resolved, That Winslow Lewis Commandery of Salem and St. George Commandery of Beverly, have and exercise *concurrent* jurisdiction over the entire town of Danvers, and that St. George Commandery have and exercise *exclusive* jurisdiction over the towns of Wenham, Hamilton and Ipswich.

Respectfully submitted.

GEORGE H. BURNHAM,
CHARLES A. STOTT,
ROBERT H. CHAMBERLAIN, } *Committee.*

Upon motion the report was accepted and approved.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION FOR NEW COMMANDERY AT HYANNIS, MASS.

To the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

The Committee to whom was referred the petition of Sir Geo. D. Miller and eighteen Knights Templars, for a dispensation for a Commandery of Knights Templars, to be located in the village of Hyannis, in the town of Barnstable, herewith submit the facts as presented to the Committee, and their conclusions thereon.

The village of Hyannis is 47 miles from New Bedford, the home of Sutton Commandery, which has given its assent to this petition. This is an argument in favor of petitioners, as they certainly live at a great distance from other Commanderies. But this in itself is not sufficient to warrant a dispensation, unless there is strong evidence that petitioners can maintain a Commandery at this place (Hyannis), which shall reflect honor and credit upon the Grand Commandery. There are three R. A. Chapters located on the Cape; Hyannis, 85 members; W. Harwich (9 miles distant), 77 members, and Provincetown (47 miles distant), 56 members.

The new Commandery would have to depend on the Chapters at Hyannis and W. Harwich for its support—a majority of whose members are past the meridan of life. The reports of the Grand Chapter do not give a very encouraging account of these three bodies, only 34 candidates exalted in the past four years.

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	
Orient of Hyannis..................	0	3	5	2	10
Sylvester Baxter of W. Harwich.....	6	6	4	0	16
J. Warren of Provincetown...... ...	4	3	1	0	8

The petitioners represent that 45 R. A. Masons have signified their intentions of applying for the Orders, and that six M. Masons and seventeen who are not yet "within the vail," are waiting the action of this Grand Commandery before applying to Lodge and Chapter. Of the eighteen Knights who petition for this dispensation, only thirteen will become members of the new Commandery.

A Commandery is a semi-military body, and the qualities essential in its membership are different from that of Lodge or Chapter. From all the information your Committee has been able to obtain, they very much doubt the ability of the petitioners and those upon whom they would rely for membership to successfully maintain a Commandery at Hyannis.

By this, we do not mean to cast any reflection upon the Masonic zeal of the brethren of the Cape district, but that the conditions (peculiar to this locality) are such, that the Grand Commandery would not be warranted in granting a dispensation.

Your Committee, therefore, recommend that the petition for a dispensation for a Commandery of Knights Templars at Hyannis be not granted.

CHAS. A. STOTT,
CHAS. C. FRY, *Committee.*
E. BENTLEY YOUNG,

Without debate the report was accepted and the recommendation adopted.

SUGGESTION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE.

To the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

Questions are continually arising respecting the jurisdiction of Subordinate Commanderies within this Grand Jurisdiction, especially in cases where Grand Commandery is asked to establish a new Commandery.

Of course none such can be set up without curtailing the jurisdiction of those already in existence regarding either territory or material, and members of Committees, to whom such matters are usually referred, are not always to any great extent familiar with the territory covered by the new applications. No map of this Grand Jurisdiction is known to this Committee to be in existence, and so far as the Committee is aware the jurisdiction of no Commandery has been officially and accurately defined; town lines, districts and communities having first obtained, and their use has continued to the present time, changed only by the creation of new Commanderies. In a number of instances friction has been caused which might have been avoided had such a map as is here suggested been at hand. From the experience of this Committee respecting such matters, it is suggested that a map of this Grand Jurisdiction be prepared under the direction of a Committee of this Grand Body, showing the territory properly belonging to each Commandery having separate jurisdiction, and showing also the jurisdictions held in concurrence by two or more Commanderies, such map to be placed in the office of the Grand Recorder.

GEORGE H. BURNHAM, *Committee*
CHAS. A. STOTT, *on*
ROBT. H. CHAMBERLAIN, *Jurisprudence.*

The suggestions offered meeting the approval of the Body, they were approved and unanimously adopted, and the following Committee appointed to carry out the suggestions: R. E. Sirs George H. Burnham, Chas. C. Fry, and E. Sir Benj. W. Rowell.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGULATION UNIFORM AND INSIGNIA.

The Committee submitted a report in print, and after much discussion a motion prevailed to refer the report back to the Committee to report at the afternoon session.

The Grand Treasurer offered the following motion which was agreed to:

That the Grand Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to pay to two members of the Committee on Correspondence the sum of $75.00 each, for the recognition of their valuable services during the ensuing term.

FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON 26TH TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

Boston, Mass., May 28, 1896.

To the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The Committee on the Triennial Conclave respectfully report that they have promptly paid all the debts incurred by the Committee and know of no outstanding claims, and submit the following classified statement of the receipts and expenditures since the report submitted by the Committee, October 31, 1895.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand October 26, 1895	$12,060 83
Contributions from Commanderies	1,639 00
Committee on carriages	20 00
Committee on horses and horse equipments	103 80
Interest on balance in bank	215 01
Total	$14,038 64

EXPENDITURES.

Hotel committee	$29 50	
Headquarters, rent, repairs, etc	41 96	
Printing	12 55	
Horses and horse equipments	12 40	
Badges	96 00	
Grand stands	18 00	
Donation to the ambulance corps	50 00	
Amount refunded to 43 Commanderies, as per vote of the Grand Commandery, Oct. 31, 1895.	9,966 00	$10,226 41
Balance		$3,812 23
Amount paid into the treasury of the Grand Commandery, April 9, 1896	$2,000 00	
Amount paid into the treasury of the Grand Commandery, May 27, 1896	1,812 23	$3,812 23

It will be seen from the foregoing statement, that a total of $3,812.23 has been paid into the treasury of the Grand Commandery, in accordance with its vote passed October 31, 1895. The total amount of money received and disbursed by the Triennial Committee is $91,065.04.

It was deemed advisable that a detailed account of the proceedings of the Triennial Committee and of the events connected with the reception and entertainment of the Grand Encampment, should be placed upon permanent record as an important part of the history of this Grand Commandery. Such an account was embodied by the Chairman of the Triennial Committee in a supplemental report which was printed as an appendix to the Proceedings of the Grand Commandery for the year 1895; and the report was also issued, without expense to the Triennial Committee of the Grand Commandery, in a separate volume, of which 1700 copies have been distributed among the officers of the Grand and subordinate bodies and prominent members of the Order throughout the United States.

In presenting their final report, the Triennial Committee congratulate the Grand Commandery that the financial outcome of the 26th Triennial is so fully in keeping with its success in every other direction.

All of which is courteously submitted,

The Triennial Committee on the 26th Triennial Conclave.
SAMUEL C. LAWRENCE,
Chairman.

Upon motion it was

Resolved, That the supplemental and final reports of the Triennial Committee be accepted and approved.

V. Em. Sir Rev. Henry W. Rugg addressed the Grand Commandery, calling attention of the Grand Body to the untiring efforts of the Chairman of the Triennial Committee in making the duties of the Committee a success.

His remarks were received with much pleasure as exhibited by the plaudits of the Sir Knights present.

PETITIONS FOR NEW COMMANDERIES.

A petition from Em. Sirs J. Frank Child, John L. Stone and Eugene G. Hoitt, and sixty-four others, resident in the town of Marlborough, Mass., for a dispensation to open and form a new Commandery in the town of Marlborough, Mass., under the name and title of Marlborough Commandery, was read by the Grand Recorder, which was upon motion referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

A second petition from Sirs John D. Edgell, Arthur P. Derby and Frank W. Smith, and forty-three others, resident in the town of Gardner, Mass., for a dispensation to form and open a new Commandery in the town of Gardner, under the name and title of Ivanhoe Commandery, was also referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

AT REFRESHMENT.

The hour of 1.15 P. M. having arrived, the Grand Commander declared a recess of an hour for refreshment.

The Sir Knights then repaired to the banquet hall in the Trocadero, and partook of a bountiful repast that the Committee of the Day had provided.

At 2.15 P. M. the Sir Knights were called to order in the Asylum for the transaction of business.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGULATION UNIFORM AND INSIGNIA.

IN GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLARS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., May 28, 1896.

To the Grand Commandery:

Your Committee to whom was referred the subject of revising the regulations concerning uniforms, etc., with instructions to report in print at this Semi-Annual Conclave; also to embody in the report regulations relative to the size and style of the American Flag authorized to be displayed by Subordinate Commanderies when on parade or in their Asylums, beg leave to recommend that the following revised code be adopted and substituted for the regulations adopted at the Semi-Annual Conclave, May 24, 1887.

REGULATIONS CONCERNING UNIFORM, INSIGNIA, GRAND STANDARD, FLAGS, &c., ADOPTED MAY 28, 1896.

FULL DRESS.

For Members of the Grand Commandery,—Black Regulation Coat, Black Vest, Black Pantaloons, Black Boots or Black High Cut Shoes, White Standing Shirt Collar, Black Necktie, Sword, Belt, Shoulder Straps, Chapeau and White Gloves. Mounted officers may wear Buff Gauntlets.

For all other Officers and Sir Knights,—Black Regulation Coat, Black Vest, Black Pantaloons, Black Boots or Black High Cut Shoes, White Standing Shirt Collar, Black Necktie, Sword, Belt, Baldric, Chapeau and Buff Gauntlets or White Gloves, in conformity to the regulations of the Subordinate Commandery to which they respectively belong.

FATIGUE DRESS.

For all Officers and Sir Knights,—Same as Full Dress, except that a Fatigue Coat may be worn in place of the Regulation Coat, and in place of the Chapeau the Fatigue Cap shall be worn. The Baldric, Apron, and gauntlets will not be worn when in Fatigue Dress.

REGULATION COAT.

For Members of the Grand Commandery (Generalissimos and Captain-Generals excepted),—A double-breasted frock coat of black cloth, military cut, the skirt to extend from two-thirds to three-fourths the distance from the hip-joint to the bend of the knee.

Buttons,—Two rows of black buttons on the breast, nine in each row, placed by threes, the buttons in each group equi-distant, and double that distance between each group,—the distance between the rows to be five and one-half inches at the top and four inches at the bottom, the line of buttons slightly curved, making a distance of seven inches between the rows at the breast; four buttons on the back and skirt of the coat, (two at the hip and one at the lower end of each side edge); two buttons on each sleeve.

Side Edges to extend two-thirds the length of the skirt.

Sleeves plain and finished without cuffs.

Collar,—Stand-up, not less than one nor more than one and one-half inches in height, to hook in front at the seam, and slope thence up and backward slightly ; corner square.

Edges,—Plain.

Trimmings,—Lining of the coat black, of the sleeves white ; slightly oval 30 line buttons on the breast, and 20 line buttons on the sleeves, covered with black velvet ; collar lined with black silk or lasting.

For Generalissimos, Captain-Generals and all other Officers and Sir Knights,—The style of the coat to be same as for the Grand Officers, *except* that the coat shall be single-breasted, with nine slightly oval 30 line buttons covered with black velvet on the front, placed equi-distant.

FATIGUE COAT.

For Sir Knights,—A close fitting sack coat of black cloth or serge, single breasted; standing collar not less than one nor more than one and one-half inches in height, to hook in front at the seam, and slope thence up and backward slightly; corner square; skirt to extend from one-third to one-half the distance from the hip joint to the bend of the knee, according to the height of the wearer ; a slit over each hip extending five inches from the bottom of the coat; hook and eye and fly front, the flap containing five concealed black buttons and button holes. The collar, edges of the coat and the hip slits to be trimmed with a wide wale mohair military braid, one and one-quarter inches wide ; lining of coat black ; sleeve linings white. The sword belt, when worn, to be under the coat.

For Generalissimos and Captain-Generals,—Same as for the Sir Knights with the addition of five double rows of three-eighths inch wide wale mohair military braid on each side of the breast, the braid to be one-eighth inch apart, with a clover leaf at the outer ends, that at the tops extending to one and one-half inches of the sleeve seams, graduated toward the bottom, the lower clover leaves to be about twelve inches from point to point or proportionate to the size of the waist.

For Eminent Commanders,—Same as for Generalissimos and Captain Generals, with each side seam of the back from the shoulder to the lower edge of the skirt, trimmed with a clover leaf bar, the bottom plain, of three-eighths inch wide mohair military braid, five-eighths of an inch apart.

For Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers, of the Grand Commandery, (*Grand and Past Grand Commanders excepted*,)—Coat, in style, the same as for the Sir Knights. The collar, edges of the coat and the hip slits to be trimmed with a seven line diamond braid, beside which, at a distance of one-eighth of an inch inside, a fine flat tubular braid one-quarter of an inch in width ; also over collar seam. On the front, four clover leaf frogs of one-quarter inch twisted silk, and olivettes.

For Grand and Past Grand Commanders,—Coat, in style and trimming, the same as for other Grand Officers, collar and sleeves excepted.

Collar to be trimmed with a three-eighths inch black tubular braid on edge and over collar seam, with a rolling circle of black mohair soutache, size 15, around the collar.

Insignia of rank on sleeves,—Of black mohair soutache, size 15, (on top side from bottom edge) as follows :

For Grand and Past Grand Commanders,—Five braids, double knot.

For all other Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers,—Five braids, single knot.

For Commanders and Past Commanders,—Four braids, single knot.

For Generalissimos,—Three braids, single knot.

For Captain Generals,—Two braids, single knot.

For Prelates,—One braid, single knot.

For Sir Knights,—One row of one-half inch, wide wale mohair military braid, three inches deep to bottom of edge of braid.

Shoulder straps to be worn on the Fatigue Coat by Officers entitled thereto.

PANTALOONS AND VEST.

To be black, the material to correspond to that of the coat ; the vest military cut, to button to the neck, with a narrow stand-up collar ; the buttons, flat black lasting. When in fatigue dress a white or light buff vest and white necktie may be worn.

CLOAK.

For Officers and Sir Knights,—Of Black Beaver, Kersey or Waterproof material, cut three-quarters full and extending to the knee in length ; turn down collar ; height of stand up, one inch and one-half ; width of face, three inches in the back and three and one-half inches in the front, to fasten with hook and eye at the top and at the seam ; corners square ; made fly front with four (4) black buttons ; lower corners square ; lining black.

SHOULDER STRAPS.

For Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery, (*Past Grand Commanders excepted*),—Bright red silk velvet, two inches wide by four inches long, bordered with one row of embroidery of gold, a quarter of an inch wide ; the Templar Cross of gold, with the initials of the office, respectively, to be embroidered (old English characters) in silver on the lower end of the strap.

For Past Grand Commanders,—The same as above, except that the color of the shoulder strap shall be purple, and the lettering omitted.

For Commanders of Subordinate Commanderies,—Emerald green silk velvet, one and a half inches wide, by four inches long, bordered with one row of embroidery of gold, a quarter of an inch wide ; the Passion Cross, with a halo, embroidered, of silver, in the centre.

For Generalissimos,—Same as for Eminent Commanders, with a Square surmounted by a Paschal Lamb embroidered in silver, in place of the Passion Cross, in the centre.

For Captain Generals,—Same as for Eminent Commanders, with a Level surmounted by a Cock embroidered in silver, in place of the Passion Cross, in the centre.

For Past Commanders,—The same as for Commanders, except that the color of the strap shall be bright red.

BELT.

For Members of the Grand Commandery, (*Generalissimos and Captain-Generals excepted*),—A belt one and three-fourths inches wide, faced with gold (field officers), wire lace, fastened around the body by a gold-plated belt-plate or clasp; that for Grand Officers, and Past Grand Officers to have a Templar Cross in bright red enamel on its face, and for Eminent and Past Eminent Commanders a Passion Cross in bright red enamel surrounded by rays. Attached to the belt, supported by slides, there shall be two short and one long gold-plated barrel-chains, and a belt-slide for the fatigue cap.

For Generalissimos, Captain-Generals and all other Officers and Sir Knights,—The belt prescribed by the regulations of the Commandery to which they respectively belong.

BALDRIC.

Officers and Past Officers entitled to wear Shoulder-Straps will not wear a baldric,—Eminent Commanders, Generalissimos and Captain-Generals on duty with their own Commanderies excepted, when they will be governed by the regulations of said Commanderies.

For all other Officers and Sir Knights,—The baldric, as prescribed by the regulations of the Commandery to which they respectively belong.

SWORD.

For Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery, Eminent and Past Commanders,—A straight, two-edged blade of proper length to assume the position of "parade rest," and not less than thirty-four inches, inclusive of gold-plated metal scabbard and helmet head. The hilt shall be of white ivory, bearing on the outer side, when sheathed, a Templar Cross for a Grand or Past Grand officer, and a Passion Cross with rays for an Eminent or Past Commander. The owner's monogram may be engraved on the opposite side. A Cross similar to that on the hilt shall appear on the outer side of the scabbard, and a light chain extend from the helmet head to the front end of the guard.

For all other Officers and Sir Knights,—The sword prescribed by the regulations of the Commandery to which they respectively belong.

CHAPEAU.

For Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery,—A military chapeau of black silk plush, gossamer body, not exceeding sixteen inches from point to point of brim, bearing on the low fan which shall be on the right side, a black satin rosette three and one-half inches in diameter, surmounted by a Templar Cross, two inches square, of bright red velvet, including edge embroidered in rough and dead gold bullion—the chapeau to be slashed on both sides, front and rear, with black silk gimp two inches wide. Over the crown shall be worn one white and two black ostrich feathers, and in front of the feathers a Bullion chapeau tassel. The chapeau may be made to fold.

For all other Officers and Sir Knights,—The chapeau and trimmings as adopted by the Commandery to which they respectively belong.

FATIGUE CAP.

For Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery,—To be of black broadcloth, navy style, the diameter at the top to be slightly less than at the base, the quarters not less than one and one-fourth or more than one and one-half inches high, and of the same height in front and at the back—the seam around the top made without a welt and stitched on each side. The band shall be one and one-half inches wide with a welt one-eighth of an inch in diameter at the top and bottom—the bottom welt to be one-eighth of an inch from the base of the cap. A band of lustrous black mohair braid shall be worn between the upper and lower welts. The visor shall be black patent leather with green underneath, moulded to shape, rounded and sloping downwards not less than 20° nor more than 30° from the horizontal. A leather inside band shall extend from the base to within one inch of the top. Morocco sweat lining. Two black metal eyelets on each side in the quarters above the band for ventilation. A gold-plated button in the form of a Templar Cross, one-half inch in diameter, shall be placed on each side beyond the ends of the visor, the eye of the button immediately above the lower welt. A sliding chain strap of leather faced with half-inch gold lace, with two gold lace slides of the same width, shall be fastened over the buttons, and rest on the upper edge of visor. On the front of the cap shall be worn a Templar Cross of bright red velvet, one and one-half inches square, including an edge embroidered in rough and dead gold bullion.

For Eminent and Past Commanders,—The same as above, except that on the front shall be worn a Passion Cross of bright red velvet one and three-quarter inches high, including an edge embroidered in rough and dead gold bullion with rays embroidered in gold.

For Generalissimos and Captain-Generals,—The same as for Eminent Commanders, without the rays.

For all other Officers and Sir Knights,—Same as for Generalissimos and Captain-Generals, except that the edge of the Passion Cross shall be embroidered with dead gold bullion, and the sliding chin strap and slides shall be made of black patent leather.

DISTINCTIONS.

Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery will wear the Templar Cross.

Eminent and Past Commanders will wear the Passion Cross surrounded by rays.

All other Officers and Sir Knights will wear the Passion Cross without rays.

Members of the Grand Commandery will wear Gold metal wherever metal appears.

All other Officers and Sir Knights will wear Silver metal unless otherwise prescribed by the regulations of their respective Commanderies.

GLOVES.

For Members of the Grand Commandery,—Buff Norway Military Gauntlets with a Templar Cross two inches square upon the back of the cuff, or White kid or lisle thread Gloves.

For all other Officers and Sir Knights,—Buff Norway Military Gauntlets, with a Passion Cross upon the back of the cuff, or Buff or White lisle thread Gloves, to conform to the regulations of the Commandery to which they respectively belong.

White Gloves will always be worn in the Asylum.

SHIRT COLLAR.

To be white, worn standing and closed in front, and of sufficient height to show above the collar of the coat not more than one-quarter of an inch.

GRAND STANDARD.

The Grand Standard is of silk, six feet in height by four feet in width, the upper half black, the lower half white. On the center of the black field is displayed in colors a Templar Cross, supporting in its centre a facsimile of the seal of the Grand Commandery (Saint George and the Dragon.) On the dexter side of the cross is the Coat of Arms of the State of Massachusetts, and on the sinister side that of the State of Rhode Island. Over the above in letters of gold are the words "Grand Commandery of Knights Templars and Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island," and under the Cross, "Organized May 6th, 1805."

On the center of the white field is a large Passion Cross of red silk velvet bordered with gold, and surrounded by rays. Upon the centre of the Cross is embroidered in gold the initials "I. N. R. I." Over it is the motto, "*In Hoc Signo Vinces,*" and on a blue ribbon artistically displayed across the lower arm, is the motto, "*Non nobis Domine, non nobis, sed Nomini tuo da Gloriam.*"

The back of the standard is of green silk, in the centre of which is a star of seven points bearing a Greek Cross surrounded by the motto, "*Magna est Veritas et Prevalebit;* while above and below the star is displayed the name of the Grand Commandery. The bottom of each field is cut tripartite, and the borders trimmed wtih gold lace and deep bullion fringe.

The Standard is suspended by nine rings from the cross-bar, upon which is mounted a Malta Cross surrounded by the motto: *Rex regum et Dominus dominorum;* and above all is a gilded globe or ball supporting a Patriarchal Cross, crimson, edged with gold.

BEAUSEANT.

Of woolen or silk stuff; the upper half black, the lower half white; cut swallow tail; seventy-eight inches long, fifty-one inches to the fork, and thirty inches between the points of the tail, forty-five inches wide on the staff; staff mounted by a battle axe. The fork of the swallow tail to be equi-distant from the top and bottom of the Beauseant. The edges to be trimmed with yellow silk fringe. and from the top of the staff a yellow silk cord with tassels appended. The length of the staff which shall be joined in the centre, to be nine feet, not including the battle axe.

On the centre of the Beauseant shall be a bright red Templar Cross twelve inches square, including a border of gold, and above and below it may be placed the name and location of the Commandery displaying it.

AMERICAN FLAG.

The National Color which may be displayed in the Asylum or when on public parade, shall be the National color of stars and stripes of a regiment of infantry of the United States Army, viz.: made of silk, five feet six inches fly, four feet four inches on the pike, which is nine feet long, including spear head and ferrule. The Union is two feet six inches long; the stars embroidered in white silk; the flag is bound with a yellow silk fringe, and the cord and tassels are of blue and white silk.

PROVISO.

"Should any regulation herein prescribed, not made obligatory by the edicts of the Grand Encampment, conflict with the regulations already adopted by any subordinate Commandery and approved by this Grand Commandery, such regulation shall not be operative unless accepted by vote of said Commandery."

Courteously submitted,

CHARLES E. PIERCE,
JAMES M. GLEASON, } *Committee.*
WINTHROP MESSENGER,

The report was accepted, approved and adopted as above printed.

COMMITTEE ON REMAINDER OF ADDRESS DELIVERED BY R. E. SIR RICHARDS THIS DAY.

The Committee made a verbal report commending the report of the R. E. Commander made this day, and stated that as there were matters contained therein that required more than ordinary notice, they would request permission to report later in writing to the Grand Recorder, and the report to appear in the printed proceedings, and on motion their request was granted.

PROVIDENCE, May 28, 1896.

To the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

The undersigned, to whom was committed such portions of the address of R. E. Sir Eugene H. Richards, Grand Commander, delivered this day, as were not otherwise assigned, respectfully report upon this remainder of the address, as follows:

Your Committee note with sincere gratification the statements of the Grand Commander respecting the attendance on Divine services, on Easter Sunday or Ascension Day, in 1896, by a goodly number of Commanderies of this jurisdiction; and they would express their hearty sympathy with his expressed commendation of such a practice. Your Committee also recognize the suggestiveness of the Grand Commander's mention of the Christmas observance, for which a programme, in part, is now provided by a committee representing the Grand Encampment of the United States. In that part of the address which comes especially under the review of the undersigned, reference is made in fitting words to deceased Knights Templars, and a just tribute is paid to prominent members of the Order who have recently departed this life and entered into rest. It is well to call attention to this record, and especially to the going forward of those who have been faithful unto death and who have stood forth as bright examples of what is noblest and best in Masonic Templarism.

Courteously submitted,

HENRY W. RUGG,
WILLIAM G. SMITH, *Committee.*
JOEL H. WHITON,

EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE WORK OF THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE.

Godfrey de Bouillon Commandery entered the Asylum and exemplified the Work of the Order of the Temple in a manner that won the admiration and plaudits of all present.

The R. E. Grand Commander tendered his personal thanks, and on motion it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Grand Commandery be and are hereby extended to Em. Sir John D. Monroe, the Officers and Sir Knights of Godfrey de Bouillon Commandery for the most excellent, impressive, and thorough manner in which they have this afternoon exemplified the Order of the Temple before this Grand Commandery.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.

The Committee on By-Laws submitted the following, which was upon vote agreed to:

IN GRAND COMMANDERY,
PROVIDENCE, R. I., May 28, 1896.

To the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

Your Committee on By-Laws respectfully submit the following report:

They have received proposed amendments to the By-Laws of St Omer Commandery, Cœur de Lion Commandery, Gethsemane Commandery, Bethany Commandery, Athol Commandery and Narragansett Commandery.

They report for approval the proposed amendments of the last named Commandery which are submitted herewith.

The amendments proposed by the other Commanderies above named involve certain financial and other important questions touching the best welfare of our organization, which should receive very careful consideration. Your committee, therefore, feel constrained to ask for further time before reporting upon them to this Grand Commandery.

Respectfully submitted,

E. BENTLEY YOUNG,
CHARLES A. PEABODY.

COMMITTEE ON SYMPATHY TO FRATERS OF PROVIDENCE, R. I.

The Committee submitted their report as follows, and it was unanimously approved:

In Grand Commandery,
Providence, R. I., May 28, 1896.

To the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

Your committee appointed to express in some suitable way the sympathy of this Grand Body for the fraters of Providence and vicinity, in the recent loss of their temple, respectfully submit the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, The Masonic building of this city with all its valuable contents was destroyed by fire, on the night of March 19, 1896, thereby depriving the Fraternity of its Masonic home and subjecting them to a loss of property in portraits and other Masonic mementos well nigh incalculable, therefore

Resolved, That this Grand Commandery desires to place on record its heartfelt sympathy for the Sir Knights of Rhode Island, and the Masonic Fraternity generally, in this their misfortune, and to express the hope that a short time only will elapse before they will be able to provide themselves with a new and more elegant home, where the same spirit of Knightly chivalry will be exemplified in word and deed that has eminently distinguished the Fraternity of Rhode Island for so many years.

Respectfully submitted,
E. BENTLEY YOUNG,
HENRY H. LITCHFIELD,
OWEN B. BESTOR.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE.

To the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred that portion of the address delivered by the Grand Commander this day, respectfully report that they have examined the same and find the Dispensations to have been granted for good and sufficient reasons, and their approval is recommended.

The Committee further find the Decisions to be in accordance with Templar law and usage, and recommend that they be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,
GEORGE H. BURNHAM, } *Committee on*
CHARLES A. STOTT, } *Jurisprudence.*

On motion the report was accepted, and the recommendations adopted.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

R. E. Sir Charles A. Stott gave notice that he moved to amend the Grand Constitution, at the Annual Conclave in October, as follows:

Strike out in Section 7, after the word may, in the fifth line, the words "for the exemplification of the work and ritual."

THANKS.

The thanks of the Grand Commandery were by vote tendered to the Committee of the Day for the thorough and excellent performance of the duties for which they were appointed.

Also, to the Fraters of Providence for the use of their Asylum, and courtesies extended at the Semi-Annual Conclave.

The business of the Semi-Annual Conclave having been concluded, the Grand Commandery was declared adjourned at 5.30 o'clock P. M.

Attest:

B. W. Rowell,
Grand Recorder.

NINETIETH ANNUAL CONCLAVE

OF THE

GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLARS

AND

APPENDANT ORDERS

OF

MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND.

THE Ninetieth Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars and the Appendant Orders of the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, assembled in the Asylum of Masonic Hall, in the City of Boston, Mass., Thursday, October 29th, A. D. 1896, A. O. 778, at eleven o'clock A. M.

GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT.

R. E.	Sir Eugene H. Richards	Grand Commander.
V. E.	Sir William R. Walker	Deputy Grand Commander.
E.	Sir Walter Cutting	Grand Generalissimo.
E.	Sir George L. Shepley	Grand Captain General.
E.	Sir Rev. Thomas E. St. John	Grand Prelate.

E. Sir Herbert F. Morse	Grand Senior Warden.
E. Sir Winthrop Messenger	Grand Junior Warden.
E. Sir James H. Upham	Grand Treasurer.
E. Sir Benjamin W. Rowell	Grand Recorder.
E. Sir George E. Hilton	Grand Standard Bearer.
E. Sir Henry G. Jordan	Grand Sword Bearer.
E. Sir Freeman C. Hersey	Grand Warder.
E. Sir Dana J. Flanders	Grand Captain of Guards.
E. Sir Henry S. Rowe	Grand Lecturers.
E. Sir Arthur B. Codding	
E. Sir J. Frank Child	Grand Sentinel.

The Committee on Credentials reported that a constitutional number of Subordinates were represented, whereupon the Grand Commander proceeded to open the Grand Commandery in ample form, assisted by the other Grand Officers and members present, the Sir Knights being led in their devotions by the Eminent Grand Prelate, Sir Rev. Thomas E. St. John, after which the R. E. Grand Commander declared the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars of Massachusetts and Rhode Island duly opened in ample form, and ready for the dispatch of business.

ROLL CALL.

The Roll of Commanderies was called, and all responded as follows:

St. John	No. 1
Boston	" 2
Newburyport	" 3
Washington	" 4
Worcester County	" 5
Springfield	" 6
De Molay	" 7
Holy Sepulchre	" 8
Pilgrim	" 9
Palestine	No. 10
Milford	" 11
St. Bernard	" 12
Calvary	" 13
Haverhill	" 14
Old Colony	" 15
Sutton	" 16
Bethany	" 17
Winslow Lewis	" 18
Jerusalem	" 19
Hugh de Payens	" 20
St. Omer	" 21
Berkshire	" 22
Connecticut Valley	" 23
Woonsocket	" 24
Godfrey de Bouillon	" 25
Joseph Warren	" 26
Narragansett	" 27
William Parkman	" 28
Bristol	" 29
Northampton	" 30
South Shore	" 31
Trinity	" 32
Natick	" 33
Cœur de Lion	" 34
Gethsemane	" 35
Olivet	" 36
Athol	" 37
Bay State	" 38
Cyprus	" 39
St. Paul	" 40
Beauseant	" 41
Cambridge	" 42
Bethlehem	" 43
St. George	" 44
Orange	" 45

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

In Grand Commandery,
Boston, October 29th, 1896.

The Committee on Credentials beg leave to report the following as entitled to seats in this Grand Commandery.

Those marked with a (*) are recorded as being present.

St. John's Commandery.

E. Com. Horace S. Richardson,*
Gen'l. Charles C. Newhall,*†
Capt. Gen. Walter W. Burnham,*
E. Sir William C. Barker,
E. Sir Rev. Daniel Rounds,
E. Sir Stillman White,
E. Sir Spencer P. Read,
R. E. Sir Rev. Henry W. Rugg,*
E. Sir Albert H. Cushman,
E. Sir Robert E. Dwelly,*
R. E. Sir George H. Burnham,*
E. Sir Newton D. Arnold,
E. Sir Walter B. Vincent,
E. Sir William E. Husband,*
E. Sir George H. Rhodes,*
E. Sir Alfred G. Pierce,
E. Sir Joseph O. Earle,
E. Sir George L. Shepley,*
E. Sir John Heathcote,
E. Sir William H. Perry,*
E. Sir Forrest A. Peck,
E. Sir George W. Pettis,
E. Sir Hunter C. White,
E. Sir Andrew B. Eddy,*
E. Sir Harry P. Smith.

Boston Commandery.

E. Com. Henry H. Litchfield,*
Gen'l. William B. Lawrence,*
Capt. Gen. J. Gilman Waite,*
E. Sir John K. Hall,
E. Sir Wyzeman Marshall,
E. Sir Charles C. Dame,*
E. Sir Henry Endicott,
R. E. Sir Samuel C. Lawrence,*
E. Sir Samuel Mason, Jr.,*
E. Sir James H. Upham,*
E. Sir J. Francis Lotts,
E. Sir Edwin Wright,
E. Sir Frederick T. Comee,
R. E. Sir Eugene H. Richards,*
E. Sir James M. Gleason,*
E. Sir Eugene A. Holton,*
E. Sir Leonard B. Nichols,
E. Sir Charles I. Litchfield.*

Newburyport Commandery.

E. Com. Charles F. Worthen,
Gen'l. John E. McCusker,*
Capt. Gen. Porter Sargent,
E. Sir Orrin J. Gurney,
E. Sir Moses H. Fowler,
E. Sir William P. Sanders,*
E. Sir John C. Kimball,*
E. Sir Oliver A. Roberts,*
E. Sir John C. Risteen,
E. Sir Green Davis,
E. Sir John F. Johnson,
E. Sir Moses Brown.

Washington Commandery.

E. Com. Joseph W. Sampson,*
Gen'l. Henry C. Stevens, Jr.,
Capt. Gen. William B. Scott,
E. Sir William J. Underwood,
E. Sir David Stevens,
E. Sir Robert S. Franklin,
E. Sir William G. Stevens,
R. E. Sir John P. Sanborn,
E. Sir William H. Cotton,
E. Sir Overton G. Langley,
E. Sir John H. Wetherell,*
E. Sir William W. Sampson,
E. Sir Andrew J. DeBlois,
E. Sir George E. Vernon.

Worcester County Commandery.

E. Com. A. Frank Gates,*
Gen'l. Phineas L. Ryder,*
Capt. Gen. William L. Davis,*
E. Sir George W. Bentley,
E. Sir Henry Goddard,
E. Sir Rev. Thomas E. St. John,*
R. E. Sir Robert H. Chamberlain,*
E. Sir James Tatman,*

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† By Proxy.

E. Sir Charles G. Reed,*
E. Sir Francis A. Harrington,*
E. Sir George B. Buckingham,*
E. Sir George L. Allen,
E. Sir William A. Farnsworth,
E. Sir Charles A. Peabody.*

Springfield Commandery.

E. Com. Edwin A. Blodgett,
Gen'l. Samuel D. Sherwood,*
Capt. Gen. Charles W. Scott,
E. Sir A. H. Kirkham,
E. Sir A. H. Foth,
E. Sir Samuel B. Spooner,*
E. Sir Peter S. Bailey,
R. E. Sir Edward P. Chapin,
E. Sir Charles C. Spellman,
E. Sir Orthello K. Merrill,
E. Sir T. T. Davee,*
E. Sir Edmund P. Kendrick,
E. Sir George F. Adams,
E. Sir George A. Spooner,*
E. Sir Henrie A. Prouty.

De Molay Commandery.

E. Com. Henry K. Dunton,*
Gen'l. Edwin B. Holmes,*
Capt. Gen. Frank W. Mead,*
E. Sir William F. Davis,*
E. Sir John M. Clark,
E. Sir Charles B. Lancaster,
E. Sir Joseph B. Mason,
E. Sir Fred G. Walbridge,
E. Sir George T. Ambrose,*
E. Sir Henry G. Jordan,*
E. Sir Frank T. Dwinell,
E. Sir William F. Chester,
E. Sir Charles H. Crane,*
E. Sir Zacheus Holmes,*
E. Sir William B. Learned.

Holy Sepulchre Commandery.

E. Com. Arthur B. Tyler,
Gen'l. S. Willard Thayer,
Capt. Gen. John F. Clark,
R. E. Sir Edward L. Freeman,*
E. Sir J. Sewall Read,
E. Sir Henry A. Pierce,*
E. Sir George A. Sweet,
V. E. Sir William R. Walker,*
E. Sir Horatio A. Brown,
E. Sir Waldo Trescott,
E. Sir James M. Bishop,
E. Sir Clovis H. Bowen,
E. Sir Benjamin G. Perkins,
E. Sir Robert W. M. Horton,
E. Sir John F. Street,
E. Sir George C. Stillman,
E. Sir W. Howard Walker,*
E. Sir Isaac Gill,
E. Sir Charles E. Harrison,
E. Sir Frederick Taylor.

Pilgrim Commandery.

E. Com. Walter W. Johnson,*
Gen'l. Harry Dunlap,
Capt. Gen. Frank K. Stearns,
E. Sir Samuel E. Sargent,
E. Sir Charles E. A. Bartlett,
R. E. Sir Charles A. Scott,*
R. E. Sir Chas. C. Hutchinson,*
E. Sir John M. Pevey,*
E. Sir Arthhr G. Pollard,*
E. Sir Solon W. Stevens,
E. Sir Charles F. Young,
E. Sir Chas. H. Richardson,*
E. Sir Edward J. Noyes,
E. Sir Frank L. Weaver,
E. Sir Charles H. Hobson.

Palestine Commandery.

E. Com. Edward G. Tutein,*
Gen'l. William Martin,
Capt. Gen. Theodore H. Buck,*
E. Sir Charles M. Avery,
E. Sir Daniel E. Chase,
E. Sir William D. Seely,
E. Sir James Donaghy,
E. Sir James N. Greenwood,
E. Sir James Tent,

E. Sir Philip G. Ilsley.
E. Sir George F. Proctor,*
E. Sir William Robinson,*
E. Sir Samuel P. Tenney,
E. Sir John Strahan,
E. Sir Henry T. Holmes.

Milford Commandery.

E. Com. Charles F. Wilkinson,*
Gen'l. De Forrest C. Morrison,*
Capt. Gen. Aaron H. Mayhew,
E. Sir George E. Stacy,*
E. Sir Sullivan C. Sumner,*
E. Sir James M. Woods,
E. Sir Julius M. Woods,*
E. Sir Daniel Reed,
E. Sir Charles W. Shippee,
E. Sir Eben D. Bancroft,
E. Sir Alfred A. Burrill,*
E. Sir S. Alden Eastman,
E. Sir Artemus B. Edmunds,*
E. Sir George S. Whitney,*
E. Sir Horace E. Whitney.*

St. Bernard Commandery.

E. Com. J. Foster Bush,*
Gen'l. Benj. L. M. Tower,
Capt. Gen. Charles E. Phipps,
E. Sir P. Adams Ames,
E. Sir Henry Mulliken,
E. Sir Charles A. Welch,
E. Sir Otis E. Weld,
E. Sir John Kent,
E. Sir G. Fred. Hurd,
E. Sir H. W. Hartwell,
E. Sir William H. Chessman,
E. Sir Thomas W. Davis,
E. Sir Thomas S. Spurr,
E. Sir Henry S. Rowe.*

Calvary Commandery.

E. Com. Frederick G. Stiles,*
Gen'l. Charles C. Mumford,*
Capt. Gen. Thomas L. Phillips,*
E. Sir Levi L. Webster,
E. Sir Charles R. Dennis,*
E. Sir Henry C. Field,
R. E. Sir Nelson W. Aldrich,
E. Sir Eugene D. Burt,
E. Sir Charles R. Brayton,
E. Sir Charles B. Webster,
E. Sir Clinton D. Sellew,
E. Sir Horace K. Blanchard,
E. Sir Alvord O. Miles,
E. Sir Arthur W. Dennis,*
E. Sir George H. Kenyon,*
E. Sir Cyril A. Babcock,
E. Sir Eugene Stevens,
E. Sir Albert L. Anthony,
E. Sir Horatio Rogers,
E. Sir Henry R. Barker,
E. Sir Spencer B. Hopkins,
E. Sir Elton A. Cook,
E. Sir Frank S. Congdon,
E. Sir Theodore V. Mattison,
E. Sir James E. Tillinghast.*

Haverhill Commandery.

E. Com. George L. Emerson,*
Gen'l. Charles P. Sumner,*
Capt. Gen. William L. Smart,
E. Sir Carlos Messer,
E. Sir Dexter B. Vickary,
E. Sir Dana J. Flanders,*
E. Sir George V. Ladd,
E. Sir Charles T. Chase,*
E. Sir Charles C. Osgood,
E. Sir Edward A. Fitts,
E. Sir George E. Mitchell.

Old Colony Commandery.

E. Com. David V. Poole,*
Gen'l. Frank E. Goddard,
Capt. Gen. Charles F. Allen,
E. Sir William W. Whitmarsh,
E. Sir Stephen S. Bradford,
E. Sir Amos S. Bradford,
E. Sir William H. Maine,
E. Sir Silas B. Dickerman,*
E. Sir William H. Davis,

E. Sir Lemuel B. Hatch,
E. Sir Jeremiah T. Richmond,*
E. Sir Horatio F. Copeland.

Sutton Commandery.

E. Com. William H. Waterman,
Gen'l. Zacheus C. Dunham,
Capt. Gen. Stephen A. Brownell,*
E. Sir A. H. W. Carpenter,
E. Sir John A. Lee,
E. Sir Gardner T. Sanford,
E. Sir Henry Field, Jr.,
E. Sir James Taylor,
E. Sir James L. Sherman,
E. Sir Ezekiel C. Gardiner,
E. Sir Theodore W. Cole,
E. Sir Isaac N. Marshall,*
E. Sir Charles L. Kirby,
E. Sir Henry W. Mason.

Bethany Commandery.

E. Com. Smith M. Decker,*
Gen'l. Benjamin Andrews,
Capt. Gen. H. L. Sherman,*
E. Sir Pardon Armington,
E. Sir William H. Jaquith,
R. E. Sir Caleb Saunders,
E. Sir G. M. Stoddard,
E. Sir Thomas Leyland,
E. Sir H. G. Herrick,
E. Sir W. M. Priest,
E. Sir William Fisher,*
E. Sir Edwin A. Baldwin.

Winslow Lewis Commandery.

E. Com. Ira Vaughn,
Gen'l. Arthur T. Way,*
Capt. Gen. Benj. Cole, Jr.,
E. Sir J. Albert Blake,*
E. Sir A. Frank Welch,*
E. Sir Dudley A. Massey,*
E. Sir Freeman C. Hersey,*
E. Sir Oliver D. Way,
E. Sir Otis W. Roberts,
E. Sir Thomas G. Pinnock.*

Jerusalem Commandery.

E. Com. Joseph G. Edgerly,*
Gen'l. George S. Richardson,*
Capt. Gen. George V. Barrett,*
E. Sir J. M. Blanchard,*
E Sir John Burney,
E. Sir George E. Clifford,
E. Sir Sullivan W. Huntley,
E. Sir Nathaniel Jewett,*
E. Sir J. W. Kimball,
E. Sir Charles A. Morgan,
E. Sir Dwight S. Woodworth,
E. Sir David A. Corey.*

Hugh de Payens Commandery.

E. Com. Edward K. Boardman,*
Gen'l. Herman J. Pettingill,*
Capt. Gen. Harry Hunt,*
E. Sir Thomas Winship,
E. Sir Smith B. Harrington,*
E. Sir E. B. Fairchild,
R. E. Sir James Swords,*
E. Sir Daniel Norton,*
E. Sir Nathan J. Simonds,
E. Sir Charles L. Davenport,
E. Sir Osgood W. Upham,*
E. Sir Winthrop Messenger,*
E. Sir Alonzo H. Smith,
E. Sir Elisha B. Sears.*

St. Omer Commandery.

E. Com. William H. Puffer,*
Gen'l. Thomas F. Christian,
Capt. Gen. James A. Cooke,
M. E. Sir Benjamin Dean,
E. Sir Francis C. Hersey,
R. E. Sir William H. H. Soule,*
E. Sir George W. Kingman,*
E. Sir Jerome Smith,
E. Sir Charles J. Noyes,
E. Sir Charles E. Pierce,*
E. Sir Theodore L. Kelley,*
E. Sir Albert H. White,
E. Sir David L. Hodges,
E. Sir Charles J. Miller.*

Berkshire Commandery.

E. Com. George W. Bailey,
Gen'l. William P. Wood,
Capt. Gen. James O. Clifford,
E. Sir Hezekiah S. Russell,
E. Sir Irving D. Ferry,
E. Sir Walter Cutting,*
E. S. Charles E. Merrill,
E. Sir William E. Wilcox,*
E. Sir Theodore L. Allen,*
E. Sir William T. Petherbridge,*
E. Sir William G. Bachus,*
E. Sir George H. Tucker.

Connecticut Valley Commandery.

E. Com. Eugene B. Blake,*
Gen'l. Enoch G. Best,
Capt. Gen. Charles H. Field,
E. Sir Rev. P. Voorhees Finch,
E. Sir William S. Severance,*
E. Sir Charles E. Severance,
E. Sir Bowdoin S. Parker,*
E. Sir Marvin S. Fellows,
E. Sir Charles H. McClellan,
E. Sir Hiram O. Smith,
E. Sir Richard N. Oakman,
E. Sir Henry L. Miller,
E. Sir Charles W. Hazelton,
E. Sir Wyatt A. Fowler,*
E. Sir Franklin E. Snow,*
E. Sir Dana Malone.*

Woonsocket Commandery.

E. Com. Frederick W. Arnold.*
Gen'l. Ambrose B. White,*
Capt. Gen. Stephen Magown,*
E. Sir Ira A. Arnold,*
E. Sir Moses P. Roberts,
E. Sir Stafford W. Razee,*
E. Sir Walter E. Parker,
E. Sir E. Edwin Aldrich,
E. Sir Francello G. Jillson,
E. Sir Stephen N. Logee,
E. Sir Amos Sherman,
E. Sir Edward E. Newell,
E. Sir Charles E. Thomas,
E. Sir A. W. Buckland,
E. Sir Seth S. Getchell,
E. Sir George W. Miller,
E. Sir Daniel W. Senior.*

Godfrey de Bouillon Commandery.

E. Com. John D. Munroe,*
Gen'l. John M. Davis,*
Capt. Gen. Dwight E. Cone,
E. Sir S. Wright Butler,
E. Sir George A. Ballard,
E. Sir Alfred H. Hartley,*
E. Sir Albert F. Dow,
E. Sir Henry Waring,
E. Sir William Davenport,
E. Sir Robert N. Hathaway,
E. Sir Herbert Field,*
E. Sir James E. McCreery,
E. Sir Judson C. McKenzie,*
E. Sir Abbott E. Slade.*

Joseph Warren Commandery.

E. Com. Charles E. Draper,*
Gen'l. Edwin S. Davis,*
Capt. Gen. John C. Ryder,
E. Sir William F. Davis,
E. Sir Samuel Little,
E. Sir John F. Newton,
E. Sir Solomon A. Bolster,
E. Sir George R. Emerson,*
E. Sir Daniel W. Jones,
E. Sir John Carr,
E Sir Frederick H. Spring,
E. Sir Herbert F. Morse,*
E. Sir William G. Fish,
E. Sir E. Bentley Young.*

Narragansett Commandery.

E. Com. Walter S. Legate,* †
Gen'l. Edward H. Babcock,

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† By Proxy.

Capt. Gen. Dennison C. Hinckley,
E. Sir George G. Stillman,*
E. Sir Azro N. Lewis,
E. Sir J. A. Babcock,
E. Sir Alva A. Crandall,
E. Sir James W. Pollette,
E. Sir Rev. John Evans,
E. Sir Albert H. Spicer,
E. Sir Solomon C. Burdick,*
E. Sir B. Court Bentley,
E. Sir Rev. William H. Groton,
E. Sir Charles W. Willard,
E. Sir Robert A. Mason.

William Parkman Commandery.

E. Com. Edward G. Graves,*
Gen'l. Charles A. Estey,*
Capt. Gen. John W. Dicker,
E. Sir Albert B. Barrett,
E. Sir Erastus H. Doolittle,
E. Sir William Waters, Jr.,*
E. Sir Albert C. Smith,*
E. Sir Frank E. Sullivan,
E. Sir Thomas Kellough,*
E. Sir Richard Beeching,*
E. Sir James M. Simpson,*
E. Sir Edward T. Pigeon,*
E. Sir Martin M. Hancock,*
E. Sir Charles T. Witt,*
E. Sir William G. Smith.*

Bristol Commandery.

E. Com. Alfred R. Crosby,*
Gen'l. George H. Sykes,*
Capt. Gen. Leo A. Heilborn,*
E. Sir John L. Kendall,
E. Sir Daniel H. Smith,
E. Sir Thomas G. Sandland,
E. Sir Owen B. Bestor,
E. Sir Arthur E. Codding,*
E. Sir Peter Nerney,
E. Sir Elton I. Franklin,
E. Sir Edward C. Martin,*
E. Sir James A. Codding,
E. Sir Theodore B. Hazzard.*

Northampton Commandery.

E. Com. Henry R. Chase,*
Gen'l. J. A. B. Lee,*
Capt. Gen. Homer C. Bliss,
E. Sir D. W. Crafts,
E. Sir J. H. Prindle,
E. Sir S. B. Fuller,
E. Sir W. B. Morgan,
E. Sir Henry Jones,
E. Sir Lemuel B. Field,
E. Sir S. W. Lee, Jr.,
E. Sir J. A. Sullivan.

Trinity Commandery.

E. Com. Stevens A. Holt,*
Gen'l. Adelbert M. Mossman,*
Capt. Gen. Amory Maynard,*
E. Sir James L. Harriman,*
E. Sir George B. Cochran,*
E. Sir J. T. Joslin,
E. Sir F. S. Dawes,
E. Sir J. F. Childs,*
E. Sir S. W. Hale,
E. Sir J. M. Pettingill,*
E. Sir F. O. Welsh,*
E. Sir E. P. Miles.*

Natick Commandery.

E. Com. Willard W. Wight,*
Gen'l. Stephen W. Holmes,*
Capt. Gen. Frank E. Parlin,*
E. Sir Charles A. Davis,
E. Sir Elbridge F. Perry,
E. Sir Charles H. Child,*
E. Sir Alfred H. Bryant,
E. Sir Charles P. Knowlton,
E. Sir Frank B. Tilton,
E. Sir Edgar S. Dodge,
E. Sir William C. Bellam,
E. Sir William E. Rollins,

E. Sir Marcellus C. Cloudman,
E. Sir James Downs,*
E. Sir Frank B. Twitchell,*
E. Sir John J. Van Valkenburgh.*

Cœur de Lion Commandery.

E. Com. Joseph H. Whiton,*
Gen'l. Joel C. Bolan,
Capt. Gen. Robert Duddy,
E. Sir William Patterson,
E. Sir John B. Wilson,
E. Sir Joseph W. Hill,*
E. Sir L. Elliot Pierce,
E. Sir Charles W. Sawyer,*
E. Sir William T. Rowe,
E. Sir Charles O. Fox,
E. Sir George F. Mullett.

South Shore Commandery.

E. Com. Francis A. Bicknell,*
Gen'l. Frank H. Mason,
Capt. Gen. Andrew J. Garey,
E. Sir Zachariah L. Bicknell,
E. Sir William Humphrey,*
E. Sir William S. Wallace,*
E. Sir Edward W. H. Bass,
E. Sir William Fearing, 2d,*
E. Sir Thomas H. Humphrey,*
E. Sir George Cushing,*
E. Sir Thomas J. Evans.*

Gethsemane Commandery.

E. Com. Frank K. Porter,*
Gen'l. Clarence Tebbetts,*
Capt. Gen. Samuel Shaw,*
E. Sir J. M. Greenwood,*
E. Sir Henry C Hayden,
E. Sir Moses Clark,
E. Sir J. B. Fuller,
E. Sir Henry J. Preston,
E. Sir A. L. Harwood,
E. Sir Lewis E. Binney,*
E. Sir George T. Coppins,
E Sir Rufus G. Brown,*
E. Sir George Breeden.*

Olivet Commandery.

E. Com. Rufus E. Hilliard,*
Gen'l. Charles A. Alley,*
Capt. Gen. Thomas W. Rogers,*
E. Sir William D. Pool,*
E. Sir John Shaw,
E. Sir Nathan B. Fletcher,
R. E. Sir George H. Allen,*
R. E. Sir Charles C. Fry,*
E. Sir Charles E. Parsons,
E. Sir J. Herbert Bowen,*
E. Sir John W. Blaney,
E. Sir Robert L. Almy,*
E. Sir John M. Vennard,*
E. Sir Benjamin W. Rowell,*
E. Sir George E. Hilton.*

Athol Commandery.

E. Com. Edmund C. Shepardson,*
Gen'l. Henry W. Harris,
Capt. Gen. Frank E Wing,
E. Sir James H. Waite,*
E. Sir Vernon O. Taylor,
E. Sir Lucien Lord,
E. Sir William W. Fish,
E. Sir William H. Heustis,
E. Sir George H. Foye,
E. Sir Othello A. Fay,*
E. Sir George W. Bishop,
E. Sir Henrie C. Fay,
E. Sir Charles H. Forbes,
E. Sir Sidney P. Smith,

Bay State Commandery.

E. Com. John A. Jackson,*
Gen'l. Francis E. Shaw,
Capt. Gen. Ira F. Burnham,
E. Sir Edward Parker,
E. Sir Baalis Sanford,*
E. Sir Charles C. Bixby,
E. Sir Elmer W. Walker,
E. Sir A. Cranston Thompson,
E. Sir Veranus Filoon,
E. Sir Edward S. Powers,

E. Sir George F. Walker,
E. Sir David W. Battles.

Cyprus Commandery.

E. Com. George Miles,
Gen'l. G. Walter Capen,
Capt. Gen. Lawrence M. Gould,
E. Sir Gamaliel Hodges,*
E. Sir Henry S. Bunton,*
E. Sir George F. Lincoln,
E. Sir Stephen B. Balkam,
E. Sir Melville P. Morrell,*
E. Sir Henry N. Bates,
E. Sir George L. Lang,
E. Sir Albert G. Webb.*

St. Paul Commandery.

E. Com. Hobart C. Tower,*
Gen'l. William Blythe,
Capt. Gen. Edward M. Meekins,
E. Sir Daniel Upton,
E. Sir George F. Miller,
E. Sir Walter S. Carr.

Beauseant Commandery.

E. Com. George L. Griffin,*
Gen'l. Albert L. Decatur,
Capt. Gen. Edwin A. Kelley,*
E. Sir Frederic J. Foss,*
E. Sir Albert H. Davenport,
E. Sir T. Fred Martin,
E. Sir George W. Walker,*
E. Sir Henry D. Wilder,*
E. Sir Jesse Cudworth,*
E. Sir Frederick T. Hawley.

Cambridge Commandery.

E. Com. Charles M. Pear,*
Gen'l. John G. Thorogood,*
Capt. Gen. Francis L. Sawtell,*
E. Sir Charles Harris,
E. Sir Lafayette G. Blair,
E. Sir Charles O. Welch.*

Bethlehem Commandery.

E. Com. David S. Presson,
Gen'l. George A. Davis,*
Capt. Gen. Wm. A. Homans, Jr.,
E. Sir Edgar S. Taft,*
E. Sir E. Archer Bradley.*

St. George Commandery.

E. Com. Samuel A. F. Whipple,
Gen'l. Charles J. Baker,
Capt. Gen. Robert K. Sears,
E. Sir John B. Hill,*
E. Sir Edward L. Giddings,
E. Sir Clarence O. Hood.

Orange Commandery.

E. Com. George A. Drake,*
Gen'l. Warren M. King,*
Capt. Gen. Clarence A. Smith,*
E. Sir Walter M. Wright,*
E. Sir Henry A. Powers.

The Records of the Semi-Annual Conclave having been printed and distributed, the reading thereof was dispensed with.

COMMITTEE OF THE DAY.

The R. E. Grand Commander stated that he had appointed E. Sirs Elisha B. Sears, of No. 20, and

William G. Smith, of No. 28, as a Committee of the Day, and that a collation would be served in the Banquet Hall at one o'clock P. M., under their supervision.

REPORT OF THE GRAND RECORDER, 1896.

To the R. E. Grand Commander and Officers of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

In compliance with the requirements of the Constitution of this Grand Commandery I have the pleasure of submitting my report of the transactions of the office of Grand Recorder for the past Templar year.

The proceedings of the last Annual Conclave have been printed and distributed.

Those of the Semi-Annual, of May last, have been printed, and are now ready for distribution at this Conclave.

In June last the annual return of this Grand Commandery to the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, together with the per capita tax due from this Grand Commandery, amounting to $574.95, were forwarded to the R. E. Grand Recorder and receipt of the same duly acknowledged.

Returns have been received from all the Subordinate Commanderies of this Grand Jurisdiction, and the following is the result of the work of the Templar year:

Gain.		*Loss.*	
Knighted	628	Dimitted	87
Affiliated	47	Died	181
Restored	3	Suspended	115
		Expelled	1
Total gain	678	Total loss	384

Making a net gain of	293
The membership is now	11,789

For the detailed report of the standing of the several Subordinate Commanderies comprising this Grand Jurisdiction, I submit the following statistical table:

EMINENT COMMANDERS AND RECORDERS.

Name of Commandery.	Eminent Commander.	Recorder.
St. John	Horace S. Richardson	Andrew B. Eddy.
Boston	Henry T. Litchfield	Herbert A. Rhoades.
Newburyport	Charles F. Worthen	George H. Stevens.
Washington	Joseph W. Sampson	David Stevens.
Worcester County	A. Frank Gates	William S. Dadmun.
Springfield	Edwin A. Blodgett	George B. Miller.
De Molay	Henry K. Dunton	Charles R. Magee.
Holy Sepulchre	Arthur B. Tyler	William H. Barclay.
Pilgrim	Walter W. Johnson	James W. B. Shaw.
Palestine	Edward G. Tutein	Charles S. Beatley.
Milford	Charles F. Wilkinson	Sullivan O. Sumner.
St. Bernard	J. Foster Bush	Fred E. Jones.
Calvary	Frederick G. Stiles	Charles S. Pettee.
Haverhill	George L. Emerson	H. Parker Williams.
Old Colony	David V. Poole	Isaac C. Howland.
Sutton	William H. Waterman	William M. Thorup.
Bethany	Smith M. Decker	Fred H. Sargent.
Winslow Lewis	Ira Vaughn	William M. Jelly.
Jerusalem	Joseph G. Edgerly	Frank D. Page.
Hugh de Payens	Edward K. Bordman	Calvin W. Sawyer.
St. Omer	William H. Puffer	William Morris.
Berkshire	Geo. W. Bailey	William T. Petherbridge.
Connecticut Valley	Eugene B. Blake	John D. Bouker.
Woonsocket	Frederick M. Arnold	Byron I. Cook.
Godfrey de Bouillon	John D. Monroe	Charles S. Ramsay.
Joseph Warren	Charles E. Draper	William H. Gerrish.
Narragansett	Walter S. Legate	Solomon C. Burdick.
William Parkman	Edward G. Graves	Edward H. Morse.
Bristol	Alfred R. Crosby	Owen B. Bestor.
Northampton	Henry R. Chase	Charles H. Chase.
South Shore	Francis A. Bicknell	Charles N. Marsh.
Trinity	Stevens A. Holt	George B. Cochran.
Natick	Willard W. Wight	Charles C. Henry.
Cœur de Lion	Joseph H. Whiton	William L. Barber.
Gethsemane	Frank K. Porter	Asa C. Jewett.
Olivet	Rufus E. Hilliard	J. Frank Pool.
Athol	Edmund C. Shepardson	Henrie C. Fay.
Bay State	John A. Jackson	Elmer W. Walker.
Cyprus	George Miles	Frank H. Bates.
St. Paul	Hobert C. Tower	Junius B. Temple.
Beauseant	George L. Griffin	Arthur W. Hutchins.
Cambridge	Charles M. Pear	John D. C. Harries.
Bethlehem	David S. Presson	W. Emerson Parsons.
St. George	Samuel A. F. Whipple	William C. Hill.
Orange	George A. Drake	Frank S. Ewing.
Ivanhoe, U. D	John D. Edgell.	

Name of Commandery.	Location of Commandery.	Date of Charter.	Time of Meeting.	Date of Annual Conclave.	Knighted.	Affiliated.	Restored.	Suspended.	Dimitted.	Expelled.	Died.	No. of members in 1895.	No. of members in 1896.	Gain.	Loss.	Amount of dues due the Grand Commandery.	Amount paid to Grand Commandery.	Date and numerical order in which annual returns were received.
St. John	Providence, R. I.	Oct. 7, 1805	1st Monday in each month	1st Monday in Dec	35	..	..	11	2	..	11	591	602	11	..	$395 50	$395 50	28. Oct. 7, 1896
Boston	Boston, Mass.	March 3, 1806	3d Wednesday in each month	3d Wednesday in Oct.	30	3	..	....	4	1	24	884	888	4	..	377 00	377 00	3. Sept. 17, 1896
Newburyport	Newburyport, Mass.	May 17, 1808	3d Thursday in each month	3d Thursday in Sept.	5	..	..	20	....	..	2	153	136	....	17	59 00	59 00	45. Oct. 10, 1896
Washington	Newport, R. I.	June 14, 1814	3d Wednesday in each month	3d Wednesday in Jan.	1	..	..	16	2	..	2	203	184	....	19	51 00	51 00	10. Sept. 30, 1896
Worcester County	Worcester, Mass.	Dec. 17, 1824	1st Thursday in each month	1st Thursday in Oct.	38	..	..	2	3	..	9	588	612	24	..	333 00	333 00	38. Oct. 7, 1896
Springfield	Springfield, Mass.	June 19, 1826	1st Monday in each month	1st Monday in Nov.	35	3	..	....	6	..	14	612	630	18	..	332 50	332 50	17. Oct. 2, 1896
De Molay	Boston, Mass.	Oct. 10, 1848	4th Wednesday in each month	4th Wednesday in Sept.	46	8	..	....	....	..	10	621	665	44	..	406 25	406 25	21. Oct. 3, 1896
Holy Sepulchre	Pawtucket, R. I.	Oct. 10, 1849	3d Friday in each month	1st Tuesday in Oct.	16	1	..	....	1	..	1	271	286	15	..	156 50	156 50	34. Oct. 8, 1896
Pilgrim	Lowell, Mass.	Oct. 10, 1855	Wednesday after full moon in each month.	Regular Conclave in Dec	12	..	..	....	....	..	7	331	336	5	..	149 00	149 00	29. Oct. 7, 1896
Palestine	Chelsea, Mass.	Oct. 28, 1859	2d Wednesday in each month	2d Wednesday in Oct.	7	..	..	....	1	..	5	246	247	1	..	101 75	101 75	8 Sept. 29, 1896
Milford	Milford, Mass.	Oct. 28, 1859	4th Monday in each month	4th Monday in Sept.	11	..	..	....	1	..	2	220	228	8	..	112 00	112 00	12. Sept. 30, 1896
St. Bernard	Boston, Mass.	Oct. 28, 1859	2d Wednesday in each month	2d Wednesday in Dec.	4	1	..	....	2	..	1	101	103	2	..	45 75	45 75	18. Oct. 2, 1896
Calvary	Providence, R. I.	May 22, 1860	1st Tuesday in each month	1st Tuesday in Dec.	22	..	1	7	1	..	3	396	408	12	..	212 00	212 00	26. Oct 6, 1896
Haverhill	Haverhill, Mass.	Nov. 19, 1863	2d Tuesday in each month	2d Tuesday in Oct.	20	4	..	1	2	..	4	261	278	17	..	194 50	194 50	5. Sept. 23, 1896
Old Colony	Abington, Mass.	Oct. 26, 1863	Monday next following full moon each mo.	Regular Conclave in Sept	12	..	..	....	2	..	4	153	159	6	..	99 75	99 75	41. Oct. 9, 1896
Sutton	New Bedford, Mass.	May 5, 1864	1st Thursday in each month	1st Thursday in Jan.	12	2	..	....	3	..	2	275	284	9	..	131 00	131 00	24. Oct. 6, 1896
Bethany	Lawrence, Mass.	Oct. 28, 1864	Last Tuesday in each month	Last Tuesday in Sept.	10	..	..	....	6	..	5	265	264	....	1	116 25	116 25	43. Oct. 10, 1896
Winslow Lewis	Salem, Mass.	March 3, 1865	3d Thursday in each month	3d Thursday in Oct.	13	1	..	....	....	..	3	179	190	11	..	162 50	162 50	40. Oct. 9, 1896
Jerusalem	Fitchburg, Mass.	March 8, 1865	3d Thursday in each month	3d Thursday in Sept.	8	..	..	5	3	..	6	248	242	....	6	100 50	100 50	33. Oct. 8, 1896
Hugh de Payens	Melrose, Mass.	Mar. 27, 1865	2d Wednesday in each month	2d Wednesday in Sept.	10	5	..	1	....	..	4	298	308	10	..	137 00	137 00	36. Oct. 8, 1896
St. Omer	South Boston, Mass.	Sept. 30, 1865	3d Monday in each month	3d Monday in Oct.	11	..	2	2	1	..	8	242	243	1	..	115 75	115 75	23. Oct. 6, 1896
Berkshire	Pittsfield, Mass.	Dec. 22, 1865	2d Monday in each month.	2d Monday in Dec.	5	1	..	....	....	..	....	140	146	6	..	61 50	61 50	30. Oct. 7, 1896
Connecticut Valley	Greenfield, Mass.	Dec. 22, 1865	1st Wednesday in each month	1st Wednesday in Oct.	7	..	..	....	1	..	2	155	159	4	..	79 75	79 75	42. Oct. 10, 1896
Woonsocket	Woonsocket, R. I.	Jan. 31, 1867	2d Tuesday in each month	2d Tuesday in Oct.	13	..	..	....	....	..	3	183	193	10	..	128 25	128 25	4. Sept. 17, 1896
Godfrey de Bouillon.	Fall River, Mass.	Oct. 13, 1868	3d Wednesday in each month	3d Wednesday in Oct.	11	1	..	10	7	..	....	242	237	....	5	114 25	114 25	25. Oct. 6, 1896
Joseph Warren	Roxbury, Mass.	Jan. 1, 1869	1st Monday in each month	1st Monday in Jan.	32	2	..	3	3	..	1	291	318	27	..	354 50	354 50	35. Oct. 8, 1896
Narragansett	Westerly, R. I.	May 12, 1869	2d Monday in each month	2d Monday in Jan.	2	..	..	....	1	..	1	123	123	....	..	40 75	40 75	11. Sept. 30, 1896
William Parkman	East Boston, Mass.	May 12, 1870	2d Thursday in each month	2d Tuesday in Oct.	10	2	..	1	1	..	2	258	266	8	..	114 50	114 50	13. Sept. 30, 1896
Bristol	North Attleboro, Mass	May 28, 1870	Friday on or before full moon each month.	Regular Conclave in Dec.	6	1	..	5	1	..	5	172	168	....	4	73 00	73 00	22. Oct. 5, 1896
Northampton	Northampton, Mass.	June 2, 1870	2d Monday in each month	2d Monday in Oct.	6	..	..	2	....	..	2	137	139	2	..	64 75	64 75	44. Oct. 10, 1896
South Shore	East Weymouth, Mass	June 9, 1870	Monday on or before full moon each month.	Regular Conclave in Sept	10	..	..	12	3	..	4	197	188	....	9	97 00	97 00	6. Sept. 25, 1896
Trinity	Hudson, Mass.	April 8, 1871	Wednesday after full moon each month	Regular Conclave in Sept	4	..	..	....	....	..	6	174	172	....	2	63 00	63 00	38. Oct. 9, 1896
Natick	Natick, Mass.	April 12, 1871	2d Monday in each month	2d Monday in Sept	13	..	..	7	....	..	3	168	171	3	..	102 75	102 00	39. Oct. 9, 1896
Cœur de Lion	Charlestown, Mass.	Oct. 14, 1871	3d Tuesday in each month	3d Tuesday in Nov.	19	1	..	3	5	..	7	321	326	5	..	176 50	176 50	19. Oct. 3, 1896
Gethsemane	Newtonville, Mass.	May 20, 1872	4th Tuesday in each month	4th Tuesday in June.	49	6	..	1	4	..	1	215	264	49	..	311 00	311 00	20. Oct. 3, 1896
Olivet	Lynn, Mass.	Mar. 13, 1873	1st Wednesday in each month	1st Wednesday in April.	2	..	..	2	6	..	....	240	234	....	6	68 50	68 50	15. Oct. 1, 1896
Athol	Athol, Mass.	June 7, 1873	1st Wednesday in each month	1st Wednesday in Sept.	1	..	..	2	4	..	3	121	113	....	8	33 25	33 25	1. Sept. 11, 1896
Bay State	Brockton, Mass.	Sept. 13, 1873	3d Monday in each month	3d Monday in Oct.	14	1	..	....	....	..	3	294	306	12	..	146 50	146 50	31. Oct. 7, 1896
Cyprus	Hyde Park, Mass.	Oct. 31, 1873	4th Thursday in each month	4th Thursday in May.	26	2	..	....	1	..	....	184	211	27	..	182 75	182 75	2. Sept. 14, 1896
St. Paul	North Adams, Mass.	Jan. 19, 1882	2d Friday in each month	2d Friday in April.	10	..	..	1	2	..	....	98	106	8	..	41 50	41 50	14. Oct. 2, 1896
Beauseant	Malden, Mass.	Oct. 20, 1886	4th Monday in each month	4th Monday in Sept	8	2	..	1	6	..	3	243	244	1	..	101 00	101 00	9. Sept. 29, 1896
Cambridge	Cambridge, Mass.	May 28, 1890	1st Wednesday in each month	1st Wednesday in June.	10	..	..	....	2	..	3	160	164	4	..	101 00	101 00	32. Oct. 7, 1896
Bethlehem	Gloucester, Mass.	Oct. 29, 1890	2d Monday in each month	2d Monday in Oct.	2	..	..	....	....	..	1	76	76	....	..	29 00	29 00	7. Sept. 29, 1896
St. George	Beverly, Mass.	Oct. 28, 1892	2d Thursday in each month	2d Thursday in Oct.	1	..	..	....	....	..	3	81	79	....	2	24 75	24 75	27. Oct. 6, 1896
Orange	Orange, Mass.	Oct. 26, 1893	Last Friday in each month	Last Friday in Sept.	9	..	..	....	....	..	1	85	93	8	..	68 25	68 25	16. Oct. 2, 1896
Ivanhoe, U. D.	Gardner, Mass.	*Oct. 29, 1896																
				Totals	628	47	3	115	87	1	181	11.496	11.789	372	79			

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* Date of Dispensation.

ANALYSIS OF THE RETURNS OF COMMANDERIES.

Name of Commandery.	No. of Commandery.	Members.		Orders Conferred.		Membership Results.		Dues Paid.	
		1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.	1895.	1896.
St. John	1	591	602	55	35	11	......	$228 25	$395 50
Boston	2	884	888	111	30	4	......	484 15	377 00
Newburyport	3	153	136	10	5	......	17	52 15	59 00
Washington	4	203	184	8	1	......	19	39 10	51 00
Worcester County	5	588	612	66	38	24	......	304 15	333 00
Springfield	6	613	630	58	35	18	......	265 50	332 50
De Molay	7	621	665	91	46	44	......	395 10	406 25
Holy Sepulchre	8	271	286	28	16	15	......	129 30	156 50
Pilgrim	9	331	336	36	12	5	......	160 25	149 00
Palestine	10	246	247	17	7	1	......	84 10	101 75
Milford	11	220	228	13	11	8	......	67 60	112 00
St. Bernard	12	101	103	4	4	2	......	25 90	45 75
Calvary	13	396	408	26	22	12	......	127 85	212 00
Haverhill	14	261	278	20	20	17	......	97 35	194 50
Old Colony	15	153	159	22	12	6	......	95 85	99 75
Sutton	16	275	284	17	12	9	......	81 80	131 00
Bethany	17	265	264	20	10	......	1	97 45	116 25
Winslow Lewis	18	179	190	39	13	11	......	132 10	162 50
Jerusalem	19	248	242	27	8	......	6	124 40	100 50
Hugh De Payens	20	298	308	44	10	10	......	194 05	137 00
St. Omer	21	242	243	16	11	1	......	67 60	115 75
Berkshire	22	140	146	14	5	6	......	68 00	61 50
Connecticut Valley	23	155	159	11	7	4	......	56 40	79 75
Woonsocket	24	183	193	19	13	10	......	61 25	128 25
Godfrey De Bouillon	25	242	237	17	11	......	5	84 55	114 25
Joseph Warren	26	291	318	67	32	27	......	268 15	354 50
Narragansett	27	123	123	12	2	......	......	58 70	40 75
William Parkman	28	258	266	44	10	8	......	188 20	114 50
Bristol	29	172	168	13	6	......	4	65 05	73 00
Northampton	30	137	139	29	6	2	......	126 50	64 75
South Shore	31	197	188	22	10	......	9	102 00	97 00
Trinity	32	174	172	9	4	......	2	49 45	63 00
Natick	33	168	171	21	13	3	......	97 45	102 00
Cœur De Lion	34	321	326	49	19	5	......	206 65	176 50
Gethsemane	35	215	264	55	49	49	......	245 50	311 00
Olivet	36	240	234	28	2	......	6	127 70	68 50
Athol	37	121	113	12	1	......	8	54 50	33 25
Bay State	38	294	306	48	14	12	......	209 75	146 50
Cyprus	39	184	211	26	26	27	......	117 00	182 75
St. Paul	40	98	106	13	10	8	......	61 90	41 50
Beauseant	41	243	244	33	8	1	......	147 85	101 00
Cambridge	42	160	164	36	10	4	......	154 50	101 00
Bethlehem	43	76	76	16	2	......	......	72 05	29 00
St. George	44	81	79	10	1	......	2	48 65	24 75
Orange	45	85	93	7	9	8	......	36 95	68 25

From this table it will be found that thirty-two of the Commanderies have made gains in membership during the year, two have the same membership as last reported, and eleven have made losses as follows:

Newburyport Commandery	17
Washington Commandery	19
Bethany Commandery	1
Jerusalem Commandery	6
Godfrey De Bouillon Commandery	5
Bristol Commandery	4
South Shore Commandery	9
Trinity Commandery	2
Olivet Commandery	6
Athol Commandery	8
Saint George Commandery	2

Narragansett and Bethlehem Commanderies report the same membership as last year.

The greatest number knighted was by Gethsemane, 49, and the smallest number by Washington and Athol, viz.: 1 each.

The average membership in the Commanderies of this jurisdiction still leads, being now 262.

The largest membership is that of Boston Commandery, with 888 members, and the smallest is that of Bethlehem, with 76.

The death rate during the year has increased one per cent. over that of last year, it having been one in sixty-five.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

I have received from all sources the sum of $6,843.75, as follows:

From the sale of Diplomas	$385 00
From the sale of Constitutions and Codes	4 75
From the sale of Certificates	20 25
From the sale of Proceedings	40 50
From the sale of a Table	15 00
From Annual Dues of Subordinates	6,378 25
Making total receipts of	$6,843 75

All of which I have paid over to the Grand Treasurer, and vouchers have been given for the same.

I have on hand for sale for the benefit of the Grand Commandery the following property, viz.:

195 Diplomas at	$1 00 each.
10 Constitutions (cloth) at	1 00 each.
65 Constitutions (paper) at	75 each.
110 Certificates at	25 each.

The archives of this Grand Commandery have been increased during the year by the addition of Proceedings of Sister Grand Commanderies, and are in excellent condition and consist of 224 bound volumes and over 1,000 pamphlets.

For statistics relating to Sister Grand Jurisdictions I would most respectfully refer you to the following tables:

GRAND COMMANDERY OF	Year.	Date of Organization.	Date of Annual Conclave.	Date Printed Proceedings were Received.
Alabama	1896	Nov. 29, 1860	May 13, 1896	†
Arizona	1896	Nov. 16, 1893	Nov. 11, 1896	†
Arkansas	1896	March 23, 1872	April 21, 1896	May 16, 1896
California	1896	Aug. 10, 1858	April 23, 1896	July 22, 1896
Colorado	1896	March 14, 1876	June 2, 1896	Aug. 15, 1896
Connecticut	1896	Sept. 13, 1827	March 17, 1896	April 9, 1896
District of Columbia	1896	Jan. 14, 1896	May 11, 1896	July 28, 1896
Florida	1896	Aug. 15, 1895	May 14, 1896	July 6, 1896
Georgia	1896	April 25, 1860	April 16, 1896	May 15, 1896
Illinois	1896	Oct. 27, 1857	Oct. 28, 1896	†
Indian Territory	1896	Dec. 27, 1895	June 22, 1896	....
Indiana	1896	May 16, 1854	April 16, 1896	June 3, 1896
Iowa	1896	June 6, 1864	July 17, 1896	Aug. 21, 1896
Kansas	1896	Dec. 27, 1868	May 13, 1896	June 2, 1896
Kentucky	1896	Oct. 15, 1847	May 27, 1896	July 28, 1896
Louisiana	1896	Feb. 12, 1864	Feb. 14, 1896	April 14, 1896
Maine	1896	May 5, 1852	May 7, 1896	Sept. 21, 1896
Maryland	1895	Jan. 23, 1871	Nov. 26, 1895	Feb. 24, 1896
Mass. and Rhode Island	1896	May 6, 1805	Oct. 29, 1896	....
Michigan	1896	April 7, 1857	May 19, 1896	June 11, 1896
Minnesota	1896	Oct. 23, 1865	June 24, 1896	Aug. 8, 1896
Mississippi	1896	Jan. 21, 1857	Feb. 14, 1896	Aug. 22, 1896
Missouri	1896	May 22, 1860	April 21, 1896	July 30, 1896
Montana	1896	May 14, 1888	Sept. 16, 1896	†
Nebraska	1896	Dec. 27, 1871	April 16, 1896	†
New Hampshire	1866	Jan. 13, 1826	Sept. 29, 1896	†
New Jersey	1896	Feb. 14, 1860	May 12, 1896	June 13, 1896
New York	1896	June 18, 1814	Sept. 8, 1896	†
North Carolina	1896	May 10, 1881	May 14, 1896	June 29, 1896
North Dakota	1896	June 16, 1890	June 12, 1896	Aug. 28, 1896
Ohio	1896	Oct. 24, 1843	Oct. 15, 1896	†
Oregon	1896	April 13, 1887	Oct. 8, 1896	†
Pennsylvania	1896	April 12, 1854	May 27, 1896	Sept. 3, 1896
South Dakota	1896	May 14, 1884	June 12, 1896	Aug. 7, 1896
Tennessee	1896	Oct. 12, 1859	May 15, 1896	May 29, 1896
Texas	1896	Jan. 18, 1855	April 22, 1896	July 22, 1896
Vermont	1896	June 27, 1824	June 9, 1896	July 21, 1896
Virginia	1895	Nov. 27, 1823	Nov. 14, 1895	†
Washington	1896	June 2, 1887	June 3, 1896	Sept. 25, 1896
West Virginia	1896	Feb. 25, 1874	May 13, 1896	Sept. 23, 1896
Wisconsin	1896	Oct. 20, 1859	Oct. 14, 1896	†
Wyoming	1896	March 8, 1888	May 20, 1896	Aug. 31, 1896
Grand Encampment U. S.	1895	....	....	....
Canada	1896	Oct. 9, 1895	Aug. 23, 1895	Dec. 3, 1895
England and Wales	1896	....	May 8, 1896	July 6, 1896
Ireland	1896	....	....	....
Scotland	1896	....	....	....
Victoria, Australia	1896	....	....	....

† Statistics from advance information by courtesy of Grand Recorders.

GRAND COMMANDERY OF	Year.	Number Knighted.	Number Affiliated.	Number Restored.	Number Dimitted.	Number Suspended.	Number Expelled.	Number Died.	Number of Subordinates.	Number of Members.	Gain over Last Report.	Average Membership to each Commandery.	Numerical Standing.
Alabama	1896	23	4	2	7	11	....	6	9	373	6	42	35
Arizona	1896	11	3	....	....	3	....	1	3	122	8	38	41
Arkansas	1896	36	4	4	15	31	1	12	13	510	*	39	31
California	1896	141	94	5	47	70	....	65	36	2,941	58	80	12
Colorado	1896	74	25	9	42	36	1	26	25	1,651	3	66	22
Connecticut	1866	164	4	1	6	17	1	46	11	2,298	84	209	14
District of Columbia	1896	124	17	9	43	17	....	14	5	1,565	....	313	20
Florida	1896	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	194	....	39	40
Georgia	1896	50	4	3	16	20	....	12	10	692	9	69	29
Illinois	1896	570	82	40	201	232	1	126	66	9,518	132	141	4
Indian Territory	1896	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	113	....	38	42
Indiana	1896	209	41	11	68	43	1	50	37	3,493	99	94	9
Iowa	1896	302	67	28	114	127	1	41	56	4,343	170	77	7
Kansas	1896	236	34	10	158	41	6	26	42	3,247	71	78	10
Kentucky	1896	145	26	11	55	48	2	38	25	1,931	19	77	17
Louisiana	1896	28	3	3	2	1	....	7	4	328	23	82	38
Maine	1896	256	21	4	30	39	....	49	19	3,067	163	160	11
Maryland	1895	100	37	3	31	15	....	16	10	1,087	90	109	26
Mass. and Rhode Island	1896	628	47	3	87	115	1	181	45	11,789	293	262	1
Michigan	1896	255	35	8	80	69	3	62	44	5,457	84	126	6
Minnesota	1896	152	55	8	75	35	2	26	25	2,411	77	97	13
Mississippi	1896	34	3	5	4	12	....	10	12	441	11	36	32
Missouri	1896	332	135	15	92	85	....	48	57	4,234	204	86	8
Montana	1898	45	3	6	5	20	....	4	8	348	11	43	36
Nebraska	1896	98	24	11	39	32	....	6	23	1,712	56	75	19
New Hampshire	1896	113	41	3	43	6	....	41	11	2,060	67	187	16
New Jersey	1896	165	11	....	19	26	....	25	16	1,736	117	108	18
New York	1896	780	52	61	82	316	2	166	58	10,710	327	187	3
North Carolina	1896	20	2	....	7	8	....	8	11	347	*	32	37
North Dakota	1896	31	8	1	10	1	....	4	7	427	25	61	33
Ohio	1896	446	43	51	97	169	2	115	55	8,071	157	147	5
Oregon	1896	20	15	1	12	8	....	6	6	404	*	67	34
Pennsylvania	1896	664	83	....	113	208	6	145	73	11,218	275	154	2
South Dakota	1896	56	4	4	38	59	....	8	11	752	*	68	28
Tennessee	1896	62	16	12	20	27	....	18	15	1,090	25	73	25
Texas	1896	164	30	11	67	55	2	32	31	2,129	49	68	15
Vermont	1896	93	11	....	2	3	...	17	10	1,458	62	145	23
Virginia	1895	135	22	7	39	26	1	24	21	1,457	92	69	24
Washington	1896	51	13	3	18	36	....	6	9	592	7	65	30
West Virginia	1896	123	4	1	9	12	....	10	11	878	97	80	27
Wisconsin	1896	159	69	4	85	57	....	35	28	2,902	54	103	13
Wyoming	1896	25	2	1	9	1	....	5	5	262	14	53	39
Grand Encampment U. S.	1895	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	27	1,562	97	58	21
Totals in United States.	....	7520	1192	359	1887	2127	33	1547	998	111,921	3136	....	..
Canada	1896	159	9	4	35	24	....	18	34	1,368	95	40	..
England and Wales	1896	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	120	2,497	....	20	..
Ireland	1896	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	43	1,300	....	29	..
Scotland	1896	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	20	465	....	23	..
Victoria, Australia	1896	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	109	....	22	..
Total in the World	....	7679	1201	363	1922	2151	33	1565	1220	117,660	3231	....	..

* Loss.

The present membership in the United States is now 111,913, and in the world it is 117,652.

The sources of gain have been as follows:

Knighted	7,682
Affiliated	1,200
Restored	363
Making a total gain of	9,245

The losses have been as follows:

Dimitted	1,922
Suspended	2,151
Died	1,566
Expelled	33
Making a total loss of	5,672
Making the net gain of	3,573

Fraternally submitted,

B. W. Rowell,
Grand Recorder.

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER.

IN GRAND COMMANDERY

BOSTON, October 29, 1896.

The undersigned herewith presents his annual report of the receipts and expenditures as Grand Treasurer from Oct. 31, 1895 to Oct. 20, 1896.

1895.		RECEIPTS.		
Nov.	1.	Cash on deposit as per report Oct. 31, 1895		$2,123 75
	1.	Received interest on deposit in State Street Safe Deposit and Trust Co.	$4 71	
	30.	Received interest on deposit in State Street Safe Deposit and Trust Co.	3 12	
Dec.	10.	Received return dividend from Dorchester Mutual Fire Ins. Co.	5 52	
	31.	Received interest on deposit	1 59	

1896.				
Jan.	31.	Received seventh dividend of Maverick National Bank 2 per cent	$59 03	
	31.	Received interest on deposit	55	
April	10.	" of Sir Daniel W. Lawrence, Treas. of Triennial Committee	2,000 00	
May	9.	Received of Grand Recorder	199 75	
	28.	" " Sir Daniel W. Lawrence, Treas. of Triennial Committee	1,812 23	
April	30.	Received interest on deposit in State Street Safe Deposit and Trust Co.	1 53	
May	30.	Received interest on deposit in State Street Safe Deposit and Trust Co.	2 90	
June	25.	Received interest on deposit in State Street Safe Deposit and Trust Co.	4 16	
July	25.	Received interest on deposit in State Street Safe Deposit and Trust Co.	2 85	
Aug.	25.	Received interest on deposit in State Street Safe Deposit and Trust Co	2 25	
Sept.	23.	Received of Grand Recorder	941 50	
Oct.	1.	" interest on deposit	1 86	
	1.	" of Grand Recorder	838 00	
	3.	" " "	523 00	
	5.	" " "	890 25	
	5.	" of E. Sir John Carr, Treasurer of Trustees of Grand Fund	673 75	
	7.	Received of Grand Recorder	1,251 78	
	8.	" " "	348 00	
	8.	" " R. E. Grand Commander	38 00	
	12.	" " Grand Recorder	1,749 50	
	17.	" " "	102 00	
				$13,581 58

Total receipts including cash on deposit Oct. 31, 1895........$15,705 33

Expenditures.

1895.			
Nov.	9.	Paid Martin Moore for services at conclave Oct. 31, 1895	$5 00
	9.	Paid E. C. Morris Safe Company for safe for Grand Recorder's office	170 00
	9.	Paid Trustees Masonic Hall, East Boston, use of halls Oct. 31, 1895	25 00
	9.	Paid Sir H. D. Wilder for services as Grand Lecturer Oct. 31, 1895	5 00
	9.	Paid E. B. Stillings & Co., for printing	24 75

1895.			
Nov.	12.	Paid R. E. Sir E. H. Richards as per vote of Oct. 30, 1889	$100 00
	14.	Paid T. D. Cook & Co. for collation, Oct. 31, 1895	267 00
	14.	Paid Grand Treasurer's salary to Oct. 31, 1895	100 00
	27.	Paid expenses of committee to Pittsburg, Pa	167 25
	27.	Paid J. T. Moody, bookcase, shelving and labor (28 School St.)	47 45
	27.	Paid R. E. Sir H. W. Rugg for services as Committee on Foreign Correspondence in 1895	75 00
	27.	Paid E. Sir P. Voorhees Finch for services as Committee on Foreign Correspondence in 1895	75 00
Dec.	4.	Paid Mass. Consistory for cigars used Oct. 31, 1895	15 00
	4.	Paid E. B. Stillings & Co., twelve bills for printing, etc	97 10
	10.	Paid R. E. Sir James Swords, agent, policy of insurance, (on 28 School St.) 3 years	62 80
	16.	Paid Grand R. A. Chapter of Mass., rent of 28 School St. to Nov. 1, 1895	22 92
	16.	Paid Grand R. A. Chapter of Mass., rent of 28 School St. to Dec. 1, 1895	32 92
1896.			
Jan.	1.	Paid John Carr, Treasurer of Trustees of Grand Fund, $\frac{1}{10}$ income to Oct. 31, 1895.	679 02
	6.	Paid Grand R. A. Chapter of Mass., rent to Jan. 1, 1896	32 92
Feb.	10.	Paid Grand R. A. Chapter of Mass., rent to Feb. 1, 1896	32 92
	13.	Paid J. H. Daniels & Son, for diplomas	100 00
March	9.	Paid Grand R. A. Chapter, rent to March 1, 1896	32 92
April	3.	Paid Grand R. A. Chapter, rent to April 1, 1896	32 92
	9.	Paid E. Sir A. H. White, Grand Lecturer, for expenses at inspections.	21 48
	18.	Paid E. L. Freeman & Son, printing	19 25
May	9.	Paid Grand R. A. Chapter, rent to May 1, 1896	32 92

1896.			
May	9.	Paid Grand Recorder, expressages and postages	$144 22
		Paid Grand Recorder, salary to May 1, 1896, 6 months	300 00
	12.	Paid E. Sir A. E. Codding, Grand Lecturer, expenses at inspections	35 55
	13.	Paid V. E. Sir W. R. Walker, Deputy Grand Commander, expenses at inspections	53 65
	28.	Paid Sir Richard Chadwick, janitor, services May 28, 1896	5 00
	28.	Paid Sir J. F. Child, Grand Sentinel, services May 28, 1896	5 00
	28.	Paid L. A. Tillinghast Co., for 214 dinners, May 28, 1896	214 00
	28.	Paid W. B. Chase, cigars, May 28, 1896	27 00
June	3.	Paid E. B. Stillings & Co., printing and binding	113 47
	6.	Paid E. Sir W. H. Mayo, Grand Recorder, Grand Encampment, U. S. A., dues	574 95
	15.	Paid E. Sir Winthrop Messenger, Grand Junior Warden, expenses at inspections.	68 34
July	2.	Paid J. H. Daniel & Son, for diplomas	100 00
	7.	Paid E. L. Freeman & Son, printing, binding, etc., annual report, etc	878 00
	9.	Paid Grand Royal Arch Chapter 2 months rent, to July 1, 1896	65 84
	12.	Paid E. Sir H. F. Morse, Grand Senior Warden, expenses at inspections	42 24
	23.	Paid J. H. Daniel & Son, for storage of diploma plate to July 18, 1897.	1 00
Aug.	8.	Paid Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, rent to August 1, 1895	32 92
	26.	Paid Masonic Hall (Providence) Committee, use of halls, May 28, 1896	20 00
	26.	Paid E. B. Stillings & Co., printing and binding	74 25
	25.	Paid Godfrey De Bouillon Commandery, expenses at Conclave, May 28, 1896	77 50
	28.	Paid E. Sir George L. Shepley, Grand Captain General, expenses at inspections	55 00
Sept.	25.	Paid E. Sir G. E. Hilton, Grand Standard Bearer, expenses at inspections	25 00
Oct.	1.	Paid V. E. Sir H. W. Rugg, Committee on Foreign Correspondence, 1896.	75 00

1896.				
Oct.	1.	Paid E. Sir T. E. St. John, Committee on Foreign Correspondence, vote May 28, 1896	$75 00	
	6.	Paid E. Sir Edmund P. Kendrick, Grand Lecturer, expenses at inspections	28 18	
	7.	Paid E. Sir John Carr, Treasurer, Trustee Grand Funds, error over payment October 5, 1896	1 22	
	7.	Paid Grand Recorder, salary to November 1, 1896	300 00	
	7.	Paid Grand Recorder, postages, expressages, etc	26 80	
	9.	Paid Grand Treasurer, salary for 1896	100 00	
	9.	Paid Grand Treasurer, expressing and storage of banners, and postages.	8 35	
	9.	Paid Mrs. Delia U. Chapman, donation, voted November 27, 1892	100 00	
	17.	Paid Grand Royal Arch Chapter, Massachusetts, rent, Aug. 1 to Nov. 1, 1896	98 75	
	19.	Paid E. B. Stillings & Co., printing, etc	112 65	
	20.	Paid John Carr, Treasurer of Trustees of Grand Fund $\frac{1}{10}$ income to Oct. 20, 1896.	1,078 53	
				$7,193 95
		Balance cash on deposit		$6,387 63

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES H. UPHAM,

Grand Treasurer.

The Grand Treasurer has in keeping the following named property:

The banner of this Grand Commandery presented by Right Eminent Sir George H. Allen, with an extra staff for the same, and a banner belt for use of Grand Standard Bearer.

A silk United States ensign with staff and stand for the same.

Two Past Commanders jewels.

A policy of insurance on banner for two hundred fifty dollars, expiring June 13, 1898, Equitable, Providence.

A policy of insurance on property at No. 28 School street, Boston, for two thousand dollars, expiring December 10, 1898, Girard, Philadelphia.

Also, the bonds of Eminent Sir John Carr, Treasurer of Trustees of Grand Fund, for twenty thousand dollars, to December 10, 1896.

REPORT OF THE GRAND FUND OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY, K. T., OF MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND.

BOSTON, October 29, 1896.

The Trustees of the Grand Fund of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island herewith present the accompanying report and itemized account.

Courteously yours,

EUGENE H. RICHARDS,
GEORGE H. BURNHAM,
SAMUEL C. LAWRENCE,
JOHN CARR,
JAMES H. UPHAM.

JOHN CARR, *Treasurer, in account with the Trustees of the Grand Fund of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:*

1896.	DR.	
Jan. 1.	Received of James H. Upham, Grand Treasurer, 1-10 of income of Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island for last fiscal year ending October, 1895	$679 02
Feb. 1.	Interest due this date on $3000 Boston & Maine Bonds, 6 months	60 00
28.	Provident Institution for Savings, dividend to Jan., 1896, $1,600 at 1½ per cent	24 00
28.	North End Savings Bank, dividend to Jan , 1896, $1,600 at 2 per cent	32 00
28.	Suffolk Savings Bank, dividend to Oct., 1895	26 14
28.	Home Savings Bank, dividend to Oct., 1895	25 54
29.	Warren Institution for Savings, dividend for Oct., 1895	21 20
April 1.	Dividend on 15 shares Mount Vernon National Bank at 2 per cent	30 00
1.	Dividend on 34 shares Market Nat. Bank at 2 per cent.	68 00
1.	Coupons due April 1, 1896, on $2,000 Fitchburg R. R. Bonds	40 00
1.	Coupons due April 1, 1896, on $3,000 Boston & Lowell R. R. Bonds	60 00
May 27.	Home Savings Bank, dividend to April, 1896	28 73
27.	Suffolk Savings Bank, dividend to April, 1896	23 33
June 6.	Warren Institution for Savings, dividend to April, 1896	21 62
6.	Warren Institution for Savings, withdrawn, prin..	1 22

1896.		
Aug. 1.	Boston & Maine R. R. Co., interest to date on $3,000 bonds	60 00
Sept. 12.	North End Savings Bank, dividend to July, 1896..	32 00
12.	Provident Institution for Savings, dividend to July, 1896	32 00
Oct. 1.	Mount Vernon Nat. Bank, dividend on 15 shares at 2 per cent	30 00
1.	Market Nat. Bank, dividend on 34 shares at 2 per cent.	68 00
3.	Coupons due Oct. 1, 1896, on $3,000 bonds of Boston & Lowell R. R	60 00
3.	Coupons due on $2,000 bonds, Oct. 1, 1896, of Fitchburg R. R. Co	40 00
		$1,462 80
20.	J. H. Upham, Treasurer Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, 1-10 income of fiscal year ending October, 1896	$1,078 53
	Total	$2,541 33

1896.	CR.	
Jan. 1.	Cash paid Ellison, Cooledge & Co., for premium on Fidelity & Casualty Co. bond for the Treasurer, $20,000, as per vote of the Trustees	$100 00
4.	Cash paid Old Colony Trust Company for rent of box.	10 00
Feb. 28.	Deposit in Suffolk Savings Bank	26 14
28.	Deposit in Home Savings Bank	25 54
29.	Deposit in Warren Institution for Savings	21 20
29.	Deposit in Warren Institution for Savings	520 00
May 27.	Deposit in Home Savings Bank	28 73
27.	Deposit in Suffolk Savings Bank	23 33
Oct. 5.	Cash paid to James H. Upham, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery, the income of the Grand Fund for the fiscal year ending Oct., 1896	672 56
6.	Depesit in Suffolk Savings Bank	34 00
	Balance of cash in bank.	1,079 83
	Total	$2,541 33

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN CARR,

Treasurer.

The Grand Fund consists of the following property:

15 shares Mount Vernon National Bank at par	$1,500 00
34 shares Market National Bank at par	3,400 00
Deposit in North End Savings Bank	1,600 00
Deposit in Suffolk Savings Bank	1,390 68
Deposit in Home Savings Bank	1,600 44
Deposit in Provident Institution for Savings	1,600 00
Deposit in Warren Institution for Savings	1,600 00
Registered bond. Boston & Maine R. R. Co., at 4 per cent	3,000 00
3 coupon bonds, $1,000 each, Boston & Lowell R. R. Co., at 4 per cent	3,000 00
2 coupon bonds, $1,000 each, Fitchburg R. R. Co., at 4 per cent.	2,000 00
Cash deposited in Third National Bank	1,079 83
Total	$21,770 95

The Grand Fund is increased by the payment thereto of the 1-10 of the income of the Grand Commandery for the year ending October 1, 1895, $679.02; and for the year ending October, 1896, $1,078.53; total increase $1,757.55.

Respectfully submitted to Trustees,

JOHN CARR,

Treasurer of the Grand Fund.

On motion the several reports were accepted and referred to the Committee on Finance.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

BOSTON, October 29, 1896.

Grand Commandery of Knights Templars of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

The Committee on Finance beg leave to report that they have examined the books and accounts of the Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer, and Trustees of the Grand Fund, and find the same correct, all payments being sustained by proper vouchers. They have also examined the property in the hands of the Grand Recorder, and find the same as stated in his report. They have also examined the stock and other securities held by the Trustees of the Grand Fund, and find them correct and in accordance with their report.

The receipts of the Grand Recorder have been as follows:

From returns of Subordinate Commanderies	$6,378 25
‘‘ sale of Diplomas	385 00
‘‘ ‘‘ Certificates	20 25
‘‘ ‘‘ Constitutions	4 75
‘‘ ‘‘ Proceedings for 1895	40 50
‘‘ ‘‘ Oak Table	15 00
	$6,843 75

Which amount has been paid the Grand Treasurer, and his receipts duly rendered therefor.

The receipts of the Grand Treasurer have been as follows:

From balance old account	$2,123 75
‘‘ Grand Recorder	6,843 75
‘‘ Trustees of the Grand Fund	673 78
‘‘ D. W. Lawrence, Treasurer of Triennial Committee	3,812 23
‘‘ Maverick National Bank, Dividend on Deposit	59 03
‘‘ Return Premium on Insurance Policy	5 52
‘‘ Interest on Bank Balances	25 52
‘‘ R. E. Grand Commander, amount refunded account Contingent Expenses	38 00
	$13,581 58

His disbursements have been as follows:

Paid for Safe in Office of Grand Recorder	$170 00
‘‘ R. E. Grand Commander, Contingent Expenses	100 00
‘‘ Expenses of Triennial Committee to Pittsburgh, Penn.	167 25
‘‘ Furniture, Shelves and Labor, Office of Grand Recorder.	47 45
‘‘ Insurance	62 80
‘‘ Trustees of the Grand Fund	1,757 55
‘‘ Dues to Grand Encampment, United States.	574 95
‘‘ Godfrey De Bouillon Commandery, Expenses of Exemplification.	77 50
‘‘ Salaries	1,120 00
‘‘ Treasurer of the Grand Fund, error in previous account	1 22
‘‘ Rents	462 95
‘‘ Inspections	329 44
‘‘ Collations	523 00
‘‘ Diplomas	200 00
‘‘ Donation	100 00

Paid Postage and Expressage	179 37
" Printed Proceedings	878 00
" Printing and Stationery	442 47
" Balance to new account	6,387 63
	$13,581 58

Your Committee would recommend that the salary of the Grand Treasurer be $100, and that of the Grand Recorder, $600, for the ensuing financial year.

Courteously submitted,

ARTHUR G. POLLARD,
ROBERT S. FRANKLIN,
FRED'K H. SPRING,
Finance Committee.

The report was, upon motion, accepted and approved.

ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE R. E. GRAND COMMANDER.

Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery:

Another Templar year closes to-day, and we meet to review the events of the past year, and plan for the year to come. We come with hearts filled with gratitude to the Great Father of us all, that we are once more permitted to meet and to congratulate each other on the continued prosperity of our beloved Order. Peace and harmony prevail among ourselves and with our Fraters throughout the world. We look gratefully back upon a glorious and happy past, and forward with assurance to a prosperous and useful future for our Grand Fraternity.

Since the Semi-Annual Conclave in May last, no events of special importance have occurred in our jurisdiction. The several Commanderies have paid prompt and earnest attention to their duty, and the condition of the Order throughout our jurisdiction is highly commendable.

NECROLOGY.

The hand of death has made many vacancies in our ranks, among them two who have been well known for many years in Masonic circles. Reverend and Eminent Sir Lucius R. Paige, the oldest Past Commander in the world, and a Mason for over seventy years, passed from us in his ninety-fifth year, September 2, 1896. His life was calm and peaceful, and he was distinguished for his many virtues and his noble character.

Eminent Sir E. Dana Bancroft, Past Commander of Jerusalem Commandery of Fitchburg, died August 12, 1896. He had been for many years very active in Masonry, having been Worshipful Master of five Lodges, and holding other positions. As Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, he became very familiarly known by all the brethren in the State.

Eminent Sir George M. Carpenter, Eminent Commander of St. Johns Commandery, died in Holland, July 31, 1896, in his fifty-first year. He had been a distinguished member of the Fraternity. He held at the time of his death the honorable position of U. S. District Judge of Rhode Island. His remains were brought home, and his burial was attended by many distinguished men and Masons.

Eminent Sir E. C. Worcester, Past Commander of Trinity Commandery, died November 4, 1895. He was Recorder of his Commandery for many years, and was the most concise in his records of any of our Recorders.

Eminent Sir Oliver P. Shattuck, Past Commander of Worcester County Commandery, died November 7, 1895.

Eminent Sir Darius B. Davis, Past Commander of St. Johns Commandery, died December 26, 1895.

Eminent Sir William S. Shurtleff, Past Commander of Springfield Commandery, died January 14, 1896.

Eminent Sir John C. Hall, Past Commander of Palestine Commandery, died February 17, 1896.

Eminent Sir Luman T. Jefts, Past Commander of Trinity Commandery, died July 3, 1896.

Eminent Sir Charles Crossman, Past Commander of Athol Commandery, died August 10, 1896.

Eminent Sir Horace E. Boynton, Past Grand Senior Warden and Past Commander of Cœur de Lion Commandery, died August 11, 1896.

Eminent Sir John Haigh, Past Commander of Bethany Commandery, died August 20, 1896.

Eminent Sir Jeremiah D. Parker, Past Commander of Hugh de Payens Commandery, died August 22, 1896.

Eminent Sir D. Frank Robinson, Past Commander of Bethany Commandery, died August 3, 1896, making fourteen from our ranks during the past year.

Other Grand Jurisdictions have lost distinguished members:

Right Eminent Sir Daniel Smith, Past Grand Commander of Alabama, died May 25, 1896, aged sixty-seven years.

Eminent Sir John L. Rison, Grand Treasurer of Alabama, died June 15, 1896.

Right Eminent Sir Webster D. Anthony, Past Grand Commander of Colorado, died June 22, 1896, aged fifty-eight years.

Right Eminent Sir Charles W. Batchelor, Past Grand Commander of Pennsylvania, died June 29, 1896, aged seventy-three years.

Very Eminent Sir Joseph M. Anderson, Past Deputy Grand Commander of Tennessee, died July 14th, 1896, aged eighty-one years.

Right Eminent Sir Omer A. Bassett, Past Grand Commander of Kansas, died July 19th, 1896, aged sixty-four years.

Right Eminent Sir Edmund H. Turner, Past Grand Commander of Pennsylvania, died July 12, 1896.

Right Eminent Sir Vincent L. Hurlburt, Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States, died July 24, 1896, aged sixty-seven years.

Right Eminent Sir Robert Dingwell, Grand Commander of New Jersey, died August 6, 1896.

Eminent Sir Robert Brewster, Grand Recorder of Texas, having served in that position thirty-three years, died July 25, 1896, aged eighty-four years.

Eminent Sir Alexander McGregor, Grand Sentinel of Michigan, died August 2, 1896, aged sixty-seven years.

Eminent Sir Frederick Kramer, Grand Treasurer of Arkansas, died September 8, 1896.

"Gone unto that land upon whose peaceful shore,
There rests no shadow, falls no stain,
Where those who meet shall part no more,
And those long parted meet again."

DISPENSATIONS.

June 1st, to Berkshire Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform, with music and banners, on Wednesday, June 24, 1896, for the purpose of attending the Centennial Celebration of Cincinnatus Lodge, F. & A. M., of Great Barrington, Mass., and acting as escort to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

June 8th, to Joseph Warren Commandery, to hold a special Conclave, June 12, 1896, to receive petitions for the Order of Knighthood, to be acted upon at their stated Conclave, in September, 1896, and to act upon the application of Cyprus Commandery, for release of jurisdiction over Companion George A. Bunton. Notice of the above to be given to all members.

June 12th, to Northampton Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform with banners but without music, for the purpose of attending religious services on Sunday, June 21st, 1896, at the Baptist Church in Northampton.

June 13th, to Worcester County Commandery, to parade on Wednesday, June 24th, in full Templar uniform, with music and banners, for the purpose of celebrating St. John's Day by a trip to Lake Quinsigamond.

June 18th, to Haverhill Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform, with music and banners, on June 24th, 25th and 26th, to celebrate St. John's Day by a pilgrimage to Centre Harbor, New Hampshire, permission to enter that jurisdiction, for this purpose, having been granted by the Grand Commander of New Hampshire.

June 23d, to Bay State Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform, with music and banners, on Friday, June 26th, 1896, to visit Stoughton and Sharon, Mass.

July 3d, to Springfield Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform, with music and banners in Springfield, and to visit Washington Commandery, No. 1, of Hartford, Conn., on July 14th, 1896, permission to enter that jurisdiction having been granted by the Grand Commander of Connecticut.

August 25th, to Worcester County Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform, with music and banners, in Worcester, September 10th, 1896, for the purpose of escorting the Most Worshipful Grand Master and officers of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, on the occasion of their laying the corner stone of the New City Hall in Worcester.

September 10th, to Gethsemane Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform with music and banners, at Newtonville, Mass., September 23d, 1896, on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the New Masonic Temple.

September 24th, to St. John's Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform with music and banners, in Providence, Thursday, October 15th, for the purpose of acting as escort to the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the New State House.

September 28th, to Natick Commandery, granting permission to said Commandery to elect a Junior Warden at its Regular Conclave in October, the Sir Knight elected to this position, at Annual Conclave, September 14th, having declined to serve. Notice of proposed action to be borne on notice for October Conclave, and sent to every member.

October 10th and 20th, to Sutton Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform with music and banners, on October 21st and 22d, to perform escort to Washington Commandery, No. 1, and to make a pilgrimage to Plymouth.

October 12th, to Holy Sepulchre Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform, with music and banners, in Pawtucket and Providence, for the purpose of joining with St. John's Commandery in escorting the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island to the laying of the corner stone of the New State House.

October 14th, to Calvary Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform, with music and banners, in Providence on the 15th of October, 1896, as a part of the escort of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the New State House.

Oct. 16th, to Washington Commandery, to parade in full Templar uniform, with music and banners, on October 21st and 22d, to visit New Bedford and Plymouth as guests of Sutton Commandery.

I have for satisfactory reasons, in four cases, granted dispensations to Commanderies to ballot upon petitions for the orders in less than four weeks from their receipt, in all these cases, due and proper notice of the proposed action being given to all the members of the Commanderies. In a larger number of cases where requests for such action have been made, I have declined to grant the requests, feeling that no emergency existed which justified such an action on my part.

RELEASE OF JURISDICTION.

Joseph Warren Commandery released, on June 12, to Cyprus Commandery, jurisdiction over Companion George A. Bunton.

Palestine Commandery released, on October 14th, to Columbian Commandery, No. 1, of New York city, jurisdiction over Companion William H. Snowman.

Boston Commandery, on October 21st, released to Washington Commandery, No. 1, of Hartford, Conn., jurisdiction over Companion Alfred A. Pocock.

Galesburg Commandery, of Galesburg, Ill., on October 12th, released to Sutton Commandery, of New Bedford, Mass., jurisdiction over Harland Clifton Chadwick, a Companion of the Order of the Red Cross, which he received in October, 1891, in Galesburg Commandery. Companion Chadwick has applied to Sutton Commandery for the Orders of the Temple and Malta.

DECISIONS.

Complaint has been received through the Grand Commander of Maine, from a Commandery in that State, that a Commandery in this jurisdiction has conferred the Orders of Knighthood upon Companion Henry M. Hartleb, whose petition for the Orders of Knighthood had been several times rejected by that Commandery, and over whom release of jurisdiction had not been requested.

A precisely similar complaint has been received through the Grand Commander of New Hampshire, from a Commandery in that State, that a Commandery in this jurisdiction had conferred the Orders of Knighthood upon Companion Luman B. Seaver, whose petition for the Orders of Knighthood had been several times rejected by that Commandery, and over whom release of jurisdiction had not been requested.

I at once communicated with the Commanders of the two Commanderies of this jurisdiction, and found that great carelessness, to say the least, had been exercised, and that the complaints of the Commanderies of Maine and New Hampshire were justified. The two Commanderies of this jurisdiction made ample apology for their errors to the Commanders of Maine and New Hampshire, and requested release of jurisdiction over the two Companions. The two Commanderies of Maine and New Hampshire, in a Knightly manner, accepted these apologies, but decidedly refused to release jurisdiction. Upon receipt of this information from the Grand Commanders of Maine and New Hampshire, I decided that Companions Henry M. Hartleb and Luman B. Seaver are not entitled to recognition as Companions of the Orders of the Red Cross or as Knights Templars, or as Knights of Malta.

INSPECTIONS.

The Commanderies of this jurisdiction have all been inspected by officers of this Grand Commandery to whom they were assigned. The reports of the inspecting officers are generally favorable, and with few exceptions the Commanderies are prospering and in good financial condition. The old trouble of a large number of Sir Knights without uniforms still exists, and it would seem as if some action should be taken to remedy this state of affairs. The uniform is an important part of the institution, and should be procured and worn by every candidate on receiving the Order of the Temple. The number knighted during the past year is 628, which, in view of the great additions just before the Triennial, and the dull state of business, is very encouraging. It is within eight per cent. of the average for the five years from October, 1889, to October, 1894.

I suggest that there be legislation adopted requiring all notices of Conclaves, regular or special, sent out by Commanderies, to be placed in sealed envelopes.

I also recommend that the title of Grand Lecturer be changed to Grand Inspector, it being much more appropriate to the duty performed.

The following table shows the reports of the inspecting officers for the past year.

Name of Commandery.	Number of Commandery.	Name and Rank of Inspecting Officers.	Date of Inspection.	Order Conferred.	Number of Members Present.	Number in Uniform.	Visitors Present.	Number of Members Owning Uniforms.	Number of Active Members.	Number of Honorary Members.	Number of Candidates Worked on Evening of Inspection.
St. John	1	George E. Hilton, Grand Standard Bearer	May 4, 1896	Temple	159	61	20	......	612	2	1
Boston	2	George L. Shepley, Grand Captain General	March 18, 1896	Red Cross	178	106	115	550	881	17	12
Newburyport	3	Walter Cutting, Grand Generalissimo	April 16, 1896	Red Cross	40	32	12	......	153	.....	1
Washington	4	George L. Shepley, Grand Captain General	May 27, 1896	Red Cross	57	47	28	153	195	4	1
Worcester County	5	Walter Cutting, Grand Generalissimo	March 5, 1896	Red Cross	106	64	5	......	588	2	3
Springfield	6	Wm. R. Walker, Deputy Grand Commander	Jan. 20, 1896	Red Cross	178	64	10	......	610	12	2
De Molay	7	Wm. R. Walker, Deputy Grand Commander	April 22, 1896	Red Cross	120	90	58	450	623	14	10
Holy Sepulchre	8	Arthur E. Codding, Grand Lecturer	March 20, 1896	Red Cross	120	75	39	193	270	......	1
Pilgrim	9	Walter Cutting, Grand Generalissimo	March 4, 1896	Red Cross	52	32	3	225	331	1	2
Palestine	10	Wm. R. Walker, Deputy Grand Commander	April 8, 1896	Red Cross	64	55	33	188	242	11	2
Milford	11	Wm. R. Walker, Deputy Grand Commander	April 27, 1896	Temple	75	50	14	167	218	1	1
St. Bernard	12	Winthrop Messenger, Grand Junior Warden	May 13, 1896	Red Cross	40	40	4	101	101	......	1
Calvary	13	Winthrop Messenger, Grand Junior Warden	April 7, 1896	Temple	65	37	31	......	401	......	1
Haverhill	14	Walter Cutting, Grand Generalissimo	May 12, 1896	Red Cross	116	97	22	235	247	5	2
Old Colony	15	Wm. R. Walker, Deputy Grand Commander	Jan. 15, 1896	Red Cross	60	50	8	132	145	6	1
Sutton	16	Walter Cutting, Grand Generalissimo	April 2, 1896	Temple and Malta	54	39	5	200	275	......	1
Bethany	17	Albert H. White, Grand Lecturer	Jan. 28, 1896	Red Cross	80	55	18	150	255	......	1
Winslow Lewis	18	Winthrop Messenger, Grand Junior Warden	Jan. 16, 1896	Red Cross	81	71	58	150	172	6	4
Jerusalem	19	George L. Shepley, Grand Captain General	March 26, 1896	Temple	71	69	6	175	226	15	1
Hugh de Payens	20	George E. Hilton, Grand Standard Bearer	Feb. 12, 1896	Red Cross	77	65	23	165	299	3	1
St. Omer	21	George L. Shepley, Grand Captain General	March 16, 1896	Red Cross	43	39	12	......	245	3	3
Berkshire	22	Edmund P. Kendrick, Grand Lecturer	Oct. 5, 1896	Red Cross	33	29	2	112	140	1	4
Connecticut Valley	23	Edmund P. Kendrick, Grand Lecturer	May 19, 1896	Temple	46	27	2	111	153	......	2
Woonsocket	24	Herbert F. Morse, Grand Senior Warden	April 14, 1896	Red Cross	71	58	10	100	183	......	6
Godfrey de Bouillon	25	Henry S. Rowe, Grand Lecturer	March 18, 1896	Temple	87	62	22	145	242	......	1
Joseph Warren	26	Henry G. Jordan, Grand Sword Bearer	March 2, 1896	Temple	93	73	56	200	292	10	11
Narragansett	27	Herbert F. Morse, Grand Senior Warden	April 13, 1896	Red Cross	36	30	4	80	123	......	1
William Parkman	28	Henry S. Rowe, Grand Lecturer	March 12, 1896	Red Cross	113	96	71	246	261	12	1
Bristol	29	Herbert F. Morse, Grand Senior Warden	March 27, 1896	Temple	45	36	21	149	165	1	3
Northampton	30	Edmund P. Kendrick, Grand Lecturer	May 11, 1896	Temple	37	30	3	100	130	3	1
South Shore	31	Herbert F. Morse, Grand Senior Warden	May 25, 1896	Red Cross	70	50	25	150	197	1	4
Trinity	32	Herbert F. Morse, Grand Senior Warden	July 1, 1896	Red Cross	57	43	6	160	170	......	3
Natick	33	Henry S. Rowe, Grand Lecturer	March 9, 1896	Red Cross	53	38	18	135	169	......	2
Cœur de Lion	34	Henry S. Rowe, Grand Lecturer	April 21, 1896	Red Cross	75	60	30	230	320	14	3
Gethsemane	35	Albert H. White, Grand Lecturer	March 24, 1896	Temple	99	84	44	158	215	4	9
Olivet	36	Winthrop Messenger, Grand Junior Warden	Jan. 1, 1896	Red Cross	71	49	22	203	243	1	1
Athol	37	Arthur E. Codding, Grand Lecturer	April 1, 1896	Red Cross	27	20	2	100	115	1	1
Bay State	38	George L. Shepley, Grand Captain General	April 27, 1896	Temple	77	64	23	250	300	2	1
Cyprus	39	Albert H. White, Grand Lecturer	March 26, 1896	Red Cross	90	73	22	145	208	......	10
St. Paul	40	Edmund P. Kendrick, Grand Lecturer	March 13, 1896	Temple	34	25	......	100	105	1	1
Beauseant	41	Albert H. White, Grand Lecturer	Feb. 24, 1896	Red Cross	57	48	41	180	240	6	2
Cambridge	42	Henry G. Jordan, Grand Sword Bearer	March 4, 1896	Temple	38	31	12	125	163	......	1
Bethlehem	43	Arthur E. Codding, Grand Lecturer	April 13, 1896	Red Cross	41	41	24	74	75	......	1
St. George	44	Arthur E. Codding, Grand Lecturer	March 26, 1896	Red Cross	38	38	14	80	80	1	1
Orange	45	Winthrop Messenger, Grand Junior Warden	May 29, 1896	Temple	52	42	10	67	90	......	2

REPORTS OF GRAND OFFICERS.

By the payment to the Grand Treasurer during the past year, by the Treasurer of the Triennial Committee, Sir Daniel W. Lawrence, according to the vote of the Committee, of the amount of $3,812.23, and by the increased income of the Grand Commandery from the Amendment to the Constitution adopted October 31, 1895, the Grand Treasurer has been enabled to pay promptly all bills presented.

He has also paid to the trustees of the Grand Fund one-tenth of the income of the Grand Commandery for the year ending October 1, 1895, and one-tenth of the income of the Grand Commandery for the year ending October 1, 1896. Every bill against the Grand Commandery has been paid, and there remains in the Grand Treasury, $6,387.63.

A state of affairs in which we may well rejoice, and which I trust will continue for many years to come.

Sir Knights:

The term for which you elected me to the high position of Right Eminent Grand Commander of this jurisdiction is fast closing.

The year, though rather a quiet one, has brought to me many questions which required thought and earnest attention. Those questions I have endeavored to decide with judgment and fairness, and I trust that my administration of the office has met your approval.

At the close of twenty-one years in constant office in Templar Masonry, I look back with the consciousness of having done my best to fill the various positions faithfully and creditably, and the pleasant memories of those years will last till life ends.

I thank you all sincerely, Sir Knights, for the many kindnesses and honors you have shown me.

To the corps of officers who have so cordially and faithfully supported me, I am deeply grateful, and though no longer an active worker in this Grand Commandery, I stand ready at any time to do anything in my power to promote its interests, and may its future be even more prosperous than its past, is my fervent prayer.

R. E. Sir Henry W. Rugg offered the following which was unanimously agreed to:

That so much of the address of the Grand Commander as relates to decisions and dispensations be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

That so much of the address as relates to special recommendations be referred to a Special Committee of three.

And that the remainder of the address be referred to a Special Committee of three.

The R. E. Grand Commander named the following as the Special Committees:

On Special Recommendations.—R. E. Sir Charles C. Fry, Em. Sirs H. H. Litchfield, Charles M. Pear.

On Remainder of Address.—R. E. Sir Edward L. Freeman, Em. Sirs Smith M. Decker, Alfred R. Crosby.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

The Committee on Correspondence through R. E. Sir Henry W. Rugg reported in print, and copies of the report were distributed to the members present.

COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.

The Committee on By-Laws submitted the following which was accepted and the recommendations approved:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.

BOSTON, October 29, 1896.

To the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

Your Committee on By-Laws respectfully submit their report as follows:

They have carefully examined full codes of By-Laws presented by St. Omer, Worcester County and Natick Commanderies. Also proposed amendments to the By-Laws of Cœur de Lion, Gethsemane, Hugh de Payens and Athol Commanderies.

Your Committee recommend that they all be approved, subject to such revisions as have been made to bring them into conformity with the decisions of this Grand Commandery and the Code of Statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States. Copies of the same as revised by your Committee are herewith submitted.

The proposed amendments to the By-Laws of Bethany Commandery have not been approved inasmuch as they are in conflict with the recognized law governing the permanent funds of Subordinate Commanderies.

Fraternally,

E. BENTLEY YOUNG,
CHARLES A. PEABODY,
BOWDOIN S. PARKER.
Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE RESPECTING PETITIONS FOR COMMANDERIES AT GARDNER AND AT MARLBOROUGH.

To the Grand Commandery:

Your Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred the petition of Sir John D. Edgell and forty-five others, Knights Templars resident in the town of Gardner, Mass., respectfully report that hearing was given the parties interested in the petition. Gardner is now in the jurisdiction of Jerusalem Commandery stationed at Fitchburg, members of which Commandery appeared before the Committee and favored the granting of the prayer of the petition, and that Commandery has also by its vote recommended it to the favorable consideration of Grand Commandery. Athol Commandery also recommends it. No one appeared in opposition. Few of the petitioners, as appears from the statements made to the Committee, are members of Jerusalem Commandery, but are members of Athol Commandery and unaffiliated Knights Templars who desire to renew their active connection with the Order if a Commandery were within a more convenient distance. The nearest Commanderies to this location are Jerusalem at Fitchburg 12 miles distant, Athol at Athol 17 miles, and Worcester County at Worcester 26 miles. Gardner is quite an important railroad centre and is a flourishing town with a voting population of nearly 2,000, of which a fair proportion are those who would naturally appreciate Masonic privileges, and the Lodges and Chapters within reach would probably furnish to a Commandery if one were established there, much desirable material which is not now available for neighboring Commanderies, owing to the long distance to be travelled in order to reach either of them. In view of all these circumstances it appears to your Committee that it is for the interest of the Order that the prayer of the petition be granted, and a Commandery established at Gardner, but that its jurisdiction over the towns of Ashburnham and Westminster be concurrent with Jerusalem Commandery. It was suggested that the town of Winchendon be included in the concurrent jurisdiction, but inasmuch as petitioners from that town applying to Jerusalem Commandery would be obliged to pass by that at Gardner in order to reach Jerusalem, it was thought inadvisable to so include it.

The Committee offer the accompanying resolution and recommend its passage.

Resolved, That a charter to form and open a Commandery of Knights Templars and the Appendant Orders in the town of Gardner be granted the petioners for the same, under the name and style of Ivanhoe Commandery; and that its jurisdiction over the towns of Westminster and Ashburnham be concurrent with Jerusalem Commandery.

A motion to substitute the word Dispensation for Charter in the resolution, was carried, and the resolution as amended was accepted and the recommendation adopted.

The Committee further reported:

IN GRAND COMMANDERY, October 29th, 1896.

Respecting the petition of Sir J. Frank Child and sixty-six others, resident in the town of Marlborough, for a dispensation to form and open a Commandery in that town, your Committee report as follows: all the parties interested were heard at length and each case was fairly and fully presented. The entire absence of any feeling over the matter was observed with pleasure by the Committee. Marlborough is now in the jurisdiction of Trinity Commandery stationed at Hudson, and the distance between the two places is but four miles. The nearest Commanderies are Natick which is about 17 miles distant, Milford about 20 miles, and Worcester County 26 miles or thereabouts, so that Hudson appears to be substantially in the midst of a district somewhat extensive in territory, but composed mostly of rural towns with small population, Hudson and Marlborough being the most populous of any in the territory. The former has a voting population of about 1,300, and the latter being a manufacturing town has a voting population of nearly 3,500, very many of whom are of a people unlikely to ask or receive Masonic privileges.

Trinity Commandery has a membership of 172 and its growth has been slow, its net gain having been but seven in the last five years.

Nearly all the signers to this petition are members of Trinity Commandery, but are residents of Marlborough.

Communication by electric street cars has recently been established between the two towns which are thus brought into frequent and quick communication with each other, making them for this purpose practically one community, and the neighboring towns are to some extent so reached, and there seems to be a possibility of further advantage thereby.

Trinity Commandery by an emphatic vote declined to give consent to this petition on the ground that great injury would result to it by loss of membership and of territory. It is proper to state that the petitioners who are members of Trinity Commandery refrained from voting on the question.

After observing, and carefully considering the situation, your Committee are unanimously of the opinion that to divide the jurisdiction of Trinity Commandery, already small enough respecting material, and to set up another Commandery therein, thus making two where one can now barely live, would be for the interest of neither, as the inevitable result would be, two weak Commanderies.

A Lodge and a Chapter are now located at Marlborough, and a Lodge and Commandery at Hudson, and all have suitable apartments. This seems to the Committee to be a fair and convenient arrangement for the location of the several bodies, as the members of both Chapter and Commandery have a common interest in the territory, and it fairly divides the honors between the two towns, leaving each as at present the seat of an important branch of the Masonic fraternity.

The Committee are of the unanimous opinion that neither the interests of Templar Masonry in general, or of this part of the jurisdiction in particular, would be promoted by creating a new Commandery as prayed for, and therefore recommend that the petitioners have leave to withdraw.

Fraternally submitted,

GEORGE H. BURNHAM,
CHAS. A. STOTT,
ROBERT H. CHAMBERLAIN,
Committee.

On motion this portion of the report was accepted and the recommendation adopted.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON JURISDICTION OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES AND MAP OF JURISDICTION.

IN GRAND COMMANDERY, October 29, 1896.

To the Grand Commandery.

Your Committee on map of the jurisdiction respectfully report that considerable progress has been made with the work, which is greater than was supposed at the time the Committee was created, though its importance was well understood. It is the aim of the Committee to make the least possible change in the lines of jurisdiction of the several Commanderies, but to have these lines accurately defined and indicated upon the map, at the same time regarding town lines as the natural division. Working maps have been prepared and the plan of division outlined respecting a portion of the jurisdiction, but the work is not sufficiently advanced for presentation at this Conclave, and the Committee therefore ask further time in which to complete it. They request that the matter may be continued to the next Semi-Annual Conclave.

Fraternally submitted,

GEORGE H. BURNHAM,
CHAS. C. FRY,
B. W. ROWELL,
Committee.

On motion the report was accepted and the committee continued.

ACTION ON AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, OFFERED BY R. E. SIR CHARLES A. STOTT.

Amend Section 7 of Article 1, as follows: Strike out in Sect. 7, of Art. I, after the word "May," in the fifth line, the words "for the exemplification of the work and ritual." The section as amended will then read as follows:

CONCLAVES.

SECT. 7. This Grand Commandery shall hold a regular Conclave in October and May of each year, at such time and place as the presiding officer shall appoint —in October for the election of officers and the transaction of the annual business; and in May for the transaction of such special business as shall be presented, and the consideration of such matters as pertain to the general good of the Order.

Special Conclaves may be held at the pleasure of the presiding officer; but no business shall be transacted at a special Conclave save that which was specified in the original notice.

After discussion the motion to amend the Constitution as above was declared carried, the vote being announced by the Tellers as 191 in favor and 4 opposed.

The Grand Recorder read the following:

GRAND COMMANDERY, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF PENNSYLVANIA.

MASONIC TEMPLE, PHILADELPHIA, October 9, 1896.

To the R. E. Grand Commander, other Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

SIR KNIGHTS:—The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania extends to you a cordial invitation to be present in Pittsburgh, upon the occasion of the Twenty-seventh Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States, beginning on the second Tuesday in October, A. D. 1898.

The fraters of this jurisdiction will make every possible effort to please its visitors and we earnestly express the hope that each Grand Jurisdiction will be fully represented.

Courteously yours,

SAMUEL S. YOHE,
Grand Commander.

MONT H. SMITH,
Grand Recorder.

On motion the invitation contained in the communication was accepted, and the following resolution, offered by R. E. Sir Henry W. Rugg, was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That the Grand Recorder notify the Grand Commandery of the action of this Grand Body in accepting the invitation.

The Committee of the Day at this time reported that refreshments had been prepared and were ready in the Banquet Hall. The R. E. Grand Commander ordered an intermission until 2.30 P. M.

AT REFRESHMENT.

The hour of 2.30 having arrived the Sir Knights were called to order in the Asylum and the business of the session proceeded with.

WELCOME EXTENDED TO THE GRAND COMMANDERIES OF FLORIDA, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, INDIAN TERRITORY, AND OKLAHOMA.

R. E. Sir Henry W. Rugg offered the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island extends a hearty welcome to the four Grand Commanderies which have been constituted during the past year, viz.: Florida, District of Columbia, Indian Territory, and Oklahoma; and that we tender to these new organizations not only this greeting of Templar fellowship, but our expression of sincere desire that they may each be blessed with an abundant prosperity.

ELECTION OF GRAND OFFICERS.

The hour for the election of officers having arrived, the R. E. Grand Commander appointed as a committee to receive, sort and count the ballots, R. E. Sir James Swords, E. Sirs Charles T. Witt and Bowdoin S. Parker, and a second committee consisting of R. E. Sir George

H. Allen and E. Sirs Jesse Cudworth and R. G. Brown.

The committee having attended to the duty assigned them, reported the whole number of votes cast for R. E. Grand Commander was 152, of which V. E. Sir William R. Walker had 152 and was elected.

All the Past R. E. Grand Commanders present were appointed a committee to inform the Sir Knight of his election and escort him to the Asylum. V. E. Sir William R. Walker, upon his presentation, cordially thanked the E. Sir Knights for the honor conferred and accepted the office.

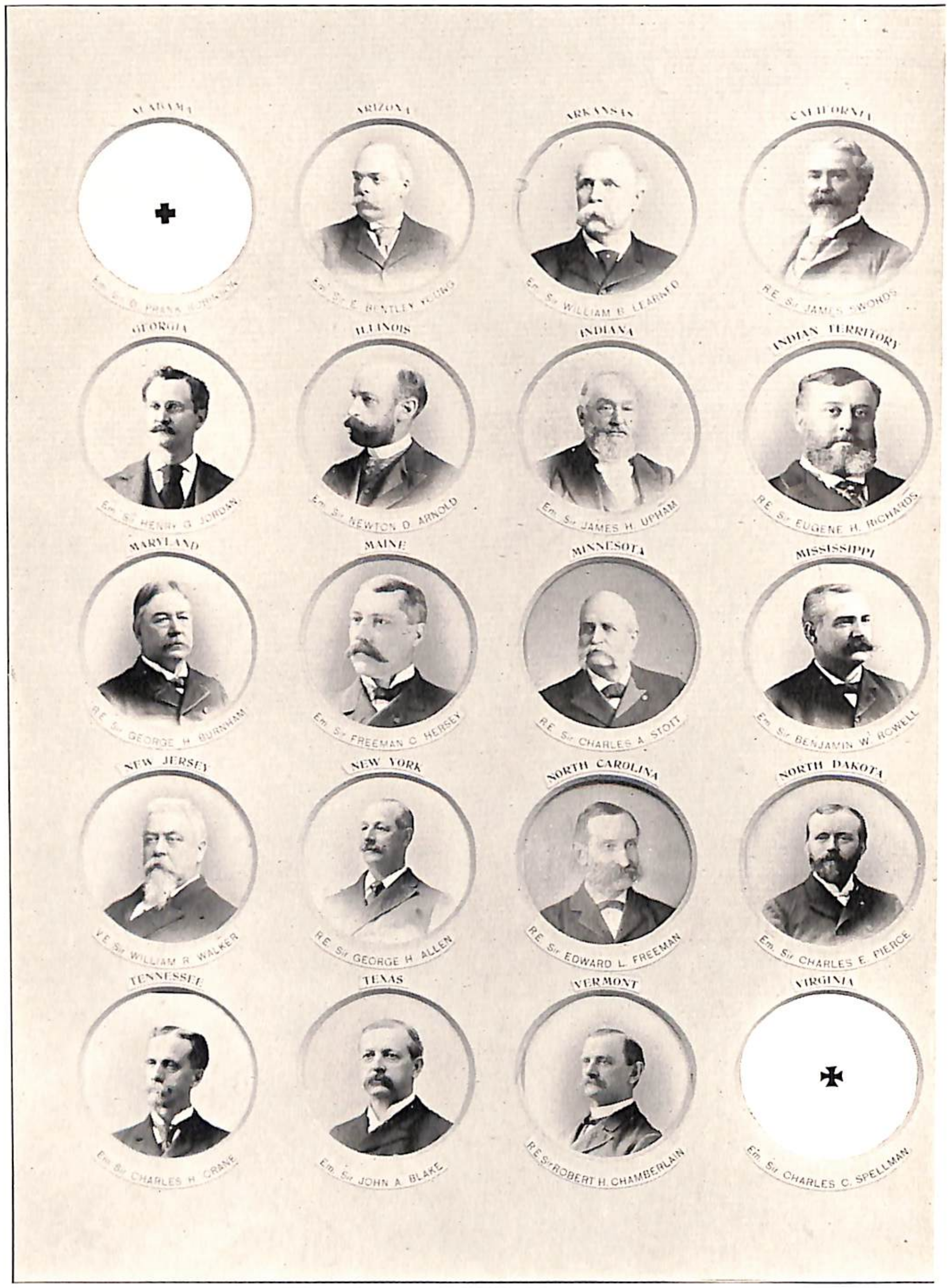
The Grand Commander-elect was then duly installed into office, and the election proceeded with, and resulted in the election of

E. Sir Walter Cutting	Deputy Grand Commander.
E. Sir George L. Shepley	Grand Generalissimo.
E. Sir Herbert F. Morse	Grand Captain General.
E. Sir Rev. Thomas E. St. John	Grand Prelate.
E. Sir Winthrop Messenger	Grand Senior Warden.
E. Sir George E. Hilton	Grand Junior Warden.
E. Sir James H. Upham	Grand Treasurer.
E. Sir Benjamin W. Rowell	Grand Recorder.
R. E. Sir George H. Burnham	Trustee of Grand Fund for 3 years.

The Roll of Representatives of other Grand Commanderies near this Grand Commandery was at this time called, and the following responded and were welcomed.

Arizona	E. Sir E. Bentley Young.
Arkansas	E. Sir William B. Learned.
California	R. E. Sir James Swords.

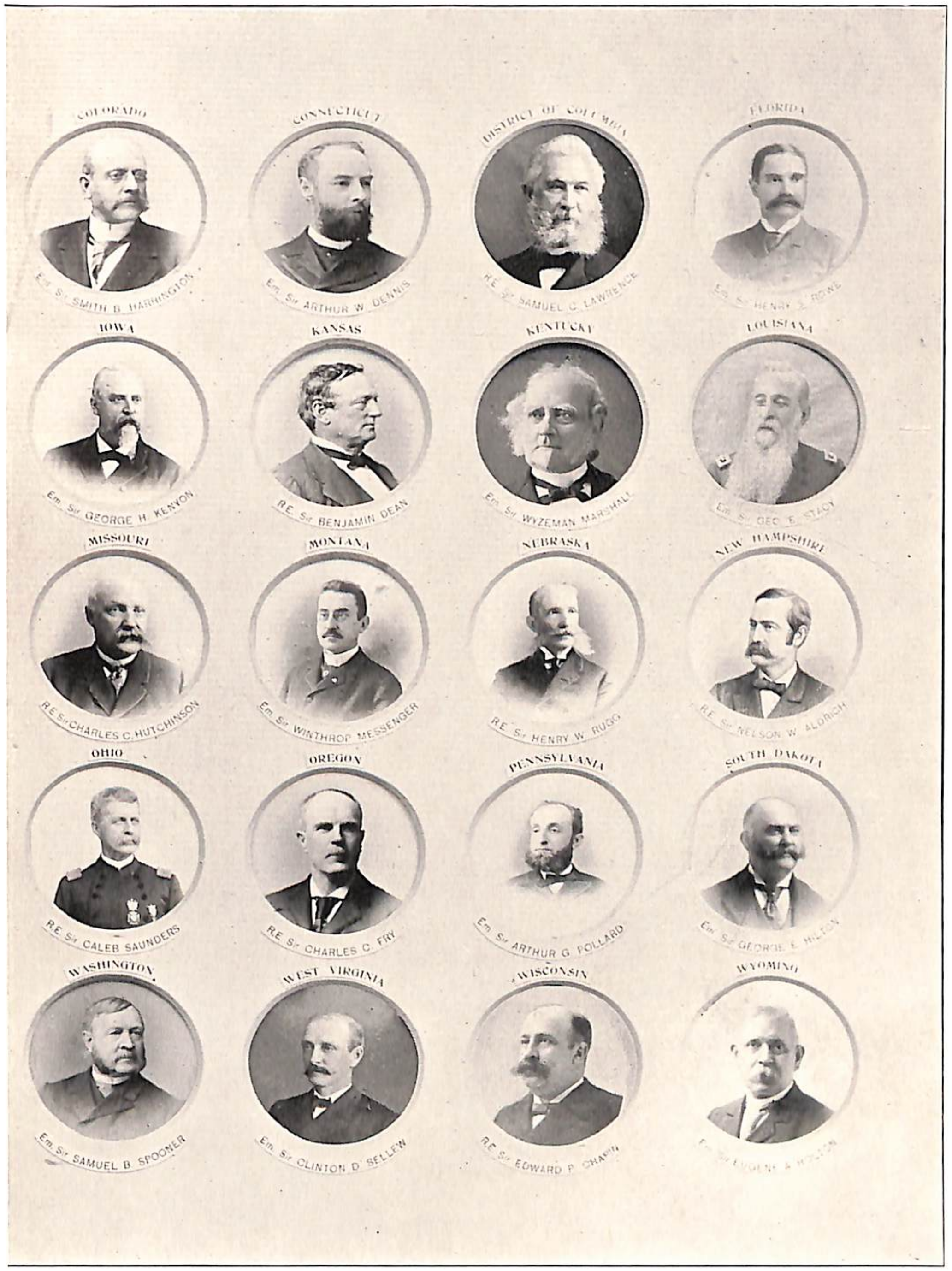
Representatives of other Grand Commanderies near the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.


ALABAMA
✚
Em. Sir D. Frank
ARIZONA
Em. Sir E. Bentley Young
ARKANSAS
Em. Sir William B. Learned
CALIFORNIA
R.E. Sir James Swords
GEORGIA
Em. Sir Henry G. Jordan
ILLINOIS
Em. Sir Newton D. Arnold
INDIANA
Em. Sir James H. Upham
INDIAN TERRITORY
R.E. Sir Eugene H. Richards
MARYLAND
R.E. Sir George H. Burnham
MAINE
Em. Sir Freeman C. Hersey
MINNESOTA
R.E. Sir Charles A. Stott
MISSISSIPPI
Em. Sir Benjamin W. Rowell
NEW JERSEY
V.E. Sir William R. Walker
NEW YORK
R.E. Sir George H. Allen
NORTH CAROLINA
R.E. Sir Edward L. Freeman
NORTH DAKOTA
Em. Sir Charles E. Pierce
TENNESSEE
Em. Sir Charles H. Crane
TEXAS
Em. Sir John A. Blake
VERMONT
R.E. Sir Robert H. Chamberlain
VIRGINIA
✠
Em. Sir Charles C. Spellman

✚ Died October 3, 1896.

✠ Portrait could not be obtained.

Representatives of other Grand Commanderies near the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.


COLORADO
Em. Sir Smith B. Harrington
CONNECTICUT
Em. Sir Arthur W. Dennis
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
R.E. Sir Samuel C. Lawrence
FLORIDA
Em. Sir Henry S. Rowe
IOWA
Em. Sir George H. Kenyon
KANSAS
R.E. Sir Benjamin Dean
KENTUCKY
Em. Sir Wyzeman Marshall
LOUISIANA
Em. Sir Geo. E. Stacy
MISSOURI
R.E. Sir Charles C. Hutchinson
MONTANA
Em. Sir Winthrop Messenger
NEBRASKA
R.E. Sir Henry W. Rugg
NEW HAMPSHIRE
R.E. Sir Nelson W. Aldrich
OHIO
R.E. Sir Caleb Saunders
OREGON
R.E. Sir Charles C. Fry
PENNSYLVANIA
Em. Sir Arthur G. Pollard
SOUTH DAKOTA
Em. Sir George E. Hilton
WASHINGTON
Em. Sir Samuel B. Spooner
WEST VIRGINIA
Em. Sir Clinton D. Sellew
WISCONSIN
R.E. Sir Edward P. Chapin
WYOMING
Em. Sir Eugene A. Holton

Colorado	E. Sir Smith B. Harrington.
Connecticut	E. Sir Arthur W. Dennis.
Dist. of Columbia	R. E. Sir Samuel C. Lawrence.
Florida	E. Sir Henry S. Rowe.
Georgia	E. Sir Henry G. Jordan.
Indiana	E. Sir James H. Upham.
Indian Territory	R. E. Sir Eugene H. Richards.
Iowa	E. Sir George H. Kenyon.
Louisana	E. Sir George E. Stacy.
Maryland	R. E. Sir George H. Burnham.
Maine	E. Sir Freeman C. Hersey.
Minnesota	R. E. Sir Charles A. Stott.
Mississippi	E. Sir Benjamin W. Rowell.
Missouri	R. E. Sir Charles C. Hutchinson.
Montana	E. Sir Winthrop Messenger.
Nebraska	R. E. Sir Rev. Henry W. Rugg.
New Jersey	R. E. Sir William R. Walker.
New York	R. E. Sir George H. Allen.
North Carolina	R. E. Sir Edward L. Freeman.
North Dakota	E. Sir Charles E. Pierce.
Oregon	R. E. Sir Charles C. Fry.
Pennsylvania	E. Sir Arthur G. Pollard.
South Dakota	E. Sir George E. Hilton.
Tennessee	E. Sir Charles H. Crane.
Texas	E. Sir J. Albert Blake.
Vermont	R. E. Sir Robert H. Chamberlain.
Washington	E. Sir Samuel B. Spooner.
Wisconsin	R. E. Sir Edward P. Chapin.
Wyoming	E. Sir Eugene A. Holton.

The R. E. Grand Commander, William R. Walker, then announced the following appointed officers and committees.

E. Sir George H. Kenyon	Grand Standard Bearer.
E. Sir Freeman C. Hersey	Grand Sword Bearer.
E. Sir W. Howard Walker	Grand Warder.
E. Sir Henry S. Rowe	Grand Captain of Guards.
E. Sir Albert H. White	Grand Lecturers.
E. Sir E. Bentley Young	
E. Sir Charles I. Litchfield	
E. Sir Isaac N. Marshall	
E. Sir John D. Munroe	Grand Sentinel.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

R. E. Sir Henry W. Rugg, E. Sir Rev. Thomas E. St. John.

COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE.

R. E. Sirs George H. Burnham, Charles A. Stott,
Robert H. Chamberlain.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

E. Sirs Arthur G. Pollard, James M. Gleason,
Henry K. Dunton.

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.

E. Sirs Benjamin W. Rowell, Albion F. Welch,
Thomas Kellough.

COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS,

E. Sirs Charles A. Peabody, Bowdoin S. Parker,
Lafayette G. Blair.

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

E. Sirs Rufus G. Brown, Edwin A. Blodgett,
Thomas J. Evans.

R. E. Sir Eugene H. Richards then installed the remaining officers, assisted by E. Sir Henry S. Rowe and E. Sir Freeman C. Hersey, and the Official Proclamation was made by the Grand Warder.

R. E. Sir William R. Walker then presented to R. E. Sir Eugene H. Richards the regulation Past Grand Commander's Jewel, the recipient responding in a most feeling manner.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REMAINDER OF ADDRESS DELIVERED THIS DAY.

Boston, October 29, 1896.

To the M. E. Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

The committee on the remainder of the address of R. E. Grand Commander Richards, presented this day, would respectfully report, that they have considered said address, and that while it bears evidence of the careful attention and consideration given by him to the interests of the Grand Commandery in this jurisdiction, during the past year, and also reveals a most gratifying condition of affairs in all the Surbordinate Commanderies, yet we find nothing requiring any special action by this Grand Commandery.

E. L. FREEMAN,
S. M. DECKER,
A. R. CROSBY.

On motion the report was received and ordered placed on file.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE.

To Grand Commandery:

Your Committee on Jurisprudence to whom was referred that portion of the address delivered this day respecting Dispensations, respectfully report that the occasions for which these were granted were such as may be termed Masonic as to those authorizing the performance of escort duty, and those for the interchange of hospitalities between Commanderies were in accordance with the practice of this Jurisdiction. In the opinion of your Committee they ought to be approved and we so recommend.

Fraternally submitted,

GEORGE H. BURNHAM,
CHAS. A. STOTT,
Committee.

By vote the report was accepted and approved.

The business of the Conclave being concluded, the R. E. Grand Commander expressed his thanks for the attention of the E. Sir Knights in attendance. The Grand Commandery was then declared adjourned after uniting in their devotions with E. Sir Rev. Thomas E. St. John, Grand Prelate.

A true record of the official acts and doings of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island at its Conclaves held during the year.

Attest:

B. W. Rowell,
RECORDER

NECROLOGY, 1895-96.

In Memoriam.

St. John's Commandery.

E. Sir Darius B. Davis,
Sir John E. Troup,
Sir Donald McLeod,
Sir William Ogden,
Sir Everett R. Osgood,
Sir Frank C. Spaulding,
Sir B. Ainsworth,
Sir Robert J. Gilmore,
Sir Samuel E. Spink,
Sir Joseph F. Barnard,
E. Sir George M. Carpenter.

Boston Commandery.

Sir Oran Brown,
Sir Henry G. Ashton,
Sir Thomas Emerson,
Sir Rufus H. Atwood,
Sir David S. Sampson,
Sir Reuben C. Knowles,
Sir Albert B. Burleigh,
Sir Henry Blaney,
Sir William L. Carpenter,
Sir Eugene F. Dunbar,
Sir E. Burt Phillips,
Sir J. Bartlett Rich,
Sir Lyman S. Hapgood,
Sir Rynear S. Young,
Sir Charles P. Lauriet,
Sir S. Worcester Hayden,
Sir George D. Tufts,
Sir John H. Thompson,
Sir Rev. Peter M. MacDonald,
Sir Thomas C. Savory,
Sir Curtis C. Nichols,
Sir Gardner R. Churchill,
Sir Nathaniel Trumbull,
E. Sir Rev. Lucius R. Paige.

Newburyport Commandery.

Sir Hiram Collins,
Sir A. Henry Adams.

Washington Commandery.

Sir Henry J. Hudson,
Sir William D. DeBlois.

Worcester County Commandery.

E. Sir Oliver P. Shattuck,
Sir Nathaniel G. Tucker,
Sir Frank L. Parker,
Sir George W. Reeves,
Sir Marcus M. Allard,
Sir Andre Avery,
Sir Ingraham B. Elliott,
Sir George S. Hoppin,
Sir Charles W. Field.

Springfield Commandery.

Sir J. S. Carr,
Sir C. L. Moore,
Sir H. B. Lewis,
Sir Levi Perkins,
Sir C. F. Cotton,
Sir William S. Shurtleff,
Sir F. E. Cooper,
Sir C. L. Farrington,
Sir C. H. Heywood,
Sir E. C. Robinson,
Sir L. H. Brigham,
Sir J. H. Dunbar,
Sir O. H. Greenleaf,
Sir A. Buchanan.

De Molay Commandery.

Sir Joseph B. Lincoln,
Sir Edward Prescott,
Sir E. G. Knight,
Sir W. A. Cooper,
Sir J. M. Merrill,
Sir A. B Babcock,
Sir W. A. Kidder,
Sir R. A. Kempton,
Sir J. B. Parker,
Sir A. K. Timson.

Holy Sepulchre Commandery.

Sir Oren S. Horton.

Pilgrim Commandery.

Sir George F. Scribner,
Sir Ralph W. Foote,
Sir Robert Goulding,
Sir George W. Curtis,
Sir Francis Jewett,
Sir Eilder Bennett,
Sir Frank T. Jacques.

Palestine Commandery.

Sir Wilber L. Slade,
Sir Francis S. Tent,
Sir Frank D. Aldrich,
Sir John K. Hodgdon,
E. Sir John C. Hall.

Milford Commandery.

Sir Edwin F. Whitney,
Sir Leonard Hunt.

St. Bernard Commandery.

Sir John C. S. Roberts.

Calvary Commandery.

Sir Thomas C. Lawton,
Sir Delos C. Wood,
Sir George White.

Haverhill Commandery.

Sir Henry L. Greelay,
Sir N. K. Johnson,
Sir James H. Winchell,
Sir Charles LeBosquet,
Sir Moses How.

Old Colony Commandery.

Sir Robert B. Sylvester,
Sir Webster S. Wales,
Sir Josiah C. Fuller,
Sir Erastus M. Nash.

Sutton Commandery.

Sir John G. Ellis,
Sir Charles H. Winchester.

Bethany Commandery.

Sir Asa A. Sawyer,
Sir Hiram H. Phillips,
Sir Thomas Clegg,
Sir Edward G. Carleton,
E. Sir John Haigh.

Winslow Lewis Commandery.

Sir Clarence S. Richards,
Sir Wyman B. Richardson,
Sir George P. Berry.

Jerusalem Commandery.

Sir Charles J. Billings,
Sir Charles Everett,
Sir Francis Sheldon,
Sir William H. Wetherbee,
E. Sir E. Dana Bancroft.

Hugh de Payens Commandery.

Sir Lafayette J. Backer,
Sir Easton Buffum,
Sir Jeremiah D. Parker,
Sir George H. Towle.

St. Omer Commandery.

Sir Thomas Hill,
Sir John Kenney,
Sir Luther H. Felton,
Sir Samuel Smith,
Sir John T. Osborne,
Sir Edward F. Howard,
Sir Thomas Leavitt,
Sir Isaac H. Robbins.

Connecticut Valley Commandery.

Sir Freeman S. Hager,
Sir Charles H. Garland.

Woonsocket Commandery.

Sir Joseph C. Jacobs,
Sir Henry M. Dudley,
Sir James E. Cook.

Joseph Warren Commandery.

Sir John W. Dinsmore.

Narragansett Commandery.

Sir William G. Caswell,

William Parkman Commandery.

Sir Joseph Smith,
Sir Joseph A. Verge.

Bristol Commandery.

Sir George F. Seaver,
Sir George H. Randall,
Sir Earl L. Richards,
Sir Charles A. Blake,
Sir Samuel H. Bugbee.

Northampton Commandery.

Sir Daniel G. Smith,
Sir James Ellsworth.

South Shore Commandery.

Sir Robert T. Bicknell,
Sir Henry A. Richards.
Sir Algernon M. Batchelder,
Sir J. Roland Orcutt.

Trinity Commandery.

E. Sir William E. C. Worcester,
Sir Julian A. Coolidge,
Sir Burleigh Morse,
Sir George Houghton,
E. Sir Luman T. Jefts,
Sir Edward W. Wood.

Natick Commandery.

Sir Aaron Bellam,
Sir Henry G. Wood,
Sir William H. Bent.

Cœur de Lion Commandery.

Sir Perez O. Gallup,
Sir Amos Stone,
Sir Charles W. Lyman,
Sir George W. Trefern,
Sir Stephen Morse, Jr.,
Sir Hamilton Campbell,
E. Sir Horace E. Boynton.

Gethsemane Commandery.

Sir Harry F. Faden.

Athol Commandery.

Sir Elbridge A. Drury,
Sir Lafayette Mills,
E. Sir Charles Crossman.

Bay State Commandery.

Sir Hiram C. Alden,
Sir William Robinson,
Sir Charles E. McElroy.

Beauseant Commandery.

Sir Star K. Frost,
Sir Henry A. Fisk,
Sir Moors Patee.

Cambridge Commandery.

Sir Walter W. Pike,
Sir Fred Dow,
Sir John M. Fisk.

Bethlehem Commandery.

Sir Francis Burnham.

St. George Commandery.

Sir Octavius Howe,
Sir Charles C. Willey,
Sir Charles T. Thorndike.

Orange Commandery.

Sir Charles A. Eddy.

ORGANIZATION

OF THE

GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLARS

AND APPENDANT ORDERS

OF

MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND.

OCTOBER 31, 1896

Sir WILLIAM R. WALKER, Pawtucket, R. I.,
R. E. Grand Commander.

Sir WALTER CUTTING, Pittsfield, Mass.,
V. E. Deputy Grand Commander.

Sir GEORGE L. SHEPLEY, Providence, R. I.,
Em. Grand Generalissimo.

Sir HERBERT F. MORSE, Roxbury, Mass.,
Em. Grand Captain General.

Sir Rev. THOMAS E. St. JOHN, Haverhill, Mass.,
Em. Grand Prelate.

Sir WINTHROP MESSENGER, Melrose, Mass.,
Em. Grand Senior Warden.

Sir GEORGE E. HILTON, Lynn, Mass.,
Em. Grand Junior Warden.

Sir JAMES H. UPHAM, Dorchester, Mass.,
Em. Grand Treasurer.

Sir BENJAMIN W. ROWELL, Lynn, Mass.,
Em. Grand Recorder.

Sir GEORGE H. KENYON, Providence, R. I.,
Em. Grand Standard Bearer.

Sir FREEMAN C. HERSEY, Boston, Mass.,
Em. Grand Sword Bearer.

SIR W. HOWARD WALKER, PAWTUCKET, R. I.,
Em. Grand Warder.

SIR HENRY S. ROWE, BOSTON, MASS.,
Em. Grand Captain of Guards.

SIR ALBERT H. WHITE, SOUTH BOSTON, MASS.,
SIR E. BENTLEY YOUNG, BOSTON, MASS.,
SIR CHARLES I. LITCHFIELD, BOSTON, MASS.,
SIR ISAAC N. MARSHALL, SO. FRAMINGHAM, MASS.
Em. Grand Lecturers.

SIR JOHN D. MUNROE, FALL RIVER, MASS.,
Em. Grand Sentinel.

⁂

COMMITTEES.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

R. E. Sir Rev. HENRY W. RUGG, E. Sir Rev. THOMAS E. ST. JOHN.

JURISPRUDENCE.

R. E. Sirs GEORGE H. BURNHAM, CHARLES A. STOTT,
ROBERT H. CHAMBERLAIN.

FINANCE.

E. Sirs ARTHUR G. POLLARD, JAMES M. GLEASON,
HENRY K. DUNTON.

BY-LAWS.

E. Sirs CHARLES H. PEABODY, BOWDOIN S. PARKER,
LAFAYETTE G. BLAIR.

PRINTING.

E. Sirs BENJAMIN W. ROWELL, ALBION F. WELCH,
THOMAS KELLOUGH.

CREDENTIALS.

E. Sirs RUFUS G. BROWN, EDWIN A. BLODGETT,
THOMAS J. EVANS.

TRUSTEES OF THE GRAND FUND.

R. E. Sir WILLIAM R. WALKER, R. E. Sir GEORGE H. BURNHAM,
R. E. Sir SAMUEL C. LAWRENCE, E. Sir JOHN CARR,
E. Sir JAMES H. UPHAM.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS GRAND COMMANDERY NEAR OTHER GRAND COMMANDERIES.

GRAND COMMANDERY OF	REPRESENTATIVES.	RESIDENCE.
Alabama	E. Sir H. Clay Armstrong	Selma, Ala.
Arizona	E. Sir Charles H. Knapp	
Arkansas	R. E. Sir William M. Mellette	Fort Smith, Ark.
California	E. Sir Charles F. Lott	Oroville, Cal.
Colorado	R. E. Sir Charles P. Maxwell	Boulder, Col.
Connecticut	R. E. Sir Henry Woodward	Middletown, Conn.
Dist. of Columbia	E. Sir Clement W. Bennett	Washington, D. C.
Florida	E. Sir Wm. H. Jewell	Jacksonville, Fla.
Georgia	E. Sir Joseph K. Orr	Columbia, Ga.
Illinois	R. E. Sir Phil. W. Barclay	Cairo, Ill.
Indiana	E. Sir Leonidas P. Newby	Knightstown, Ind.
Indian Territory	E. Sir Edward H. Doyle	Muskogee, I. T.
Iowa	E. Sir Wilbur F. Fidlar	Davenport, Iowa.
Kansas	E. Sir James S. Collins	Topeka, Kansas.
Kentucky	E. Sir Henry G. Sandifer	Danville, Ky.
Louisiana	E. Sir Algernon S. Badger	New Orleans, La.
Maryland	R. E. Sir Charles McDonald, Jr	Baltimore, Md.
Maine	R. E. Sir John W. Ballou	Bath, Maine.
Minnesota	E. Sir D. H. Montfort	St. Paul, Minn.
Mississippi	E. Sir B. A. Vaughn	Columbus, Miss.
Missouri	E. Sir Reuben Barney	Chillicothe, Mo.
Montana	E. Sir Cornelius Hedges	Helena, Mont.
Nebraska	E. Sir Eben K. Long	Omaha, Neb.
New Hampshire	E. Sir George P. Cleaves	Concord, N. H.
New Jersey	E. Sir William H. Sebring	Plainfield, N. J.
New York	E. Sir Clinton F. Paige	Binghampton, N. Y.
North Carolina	E. Sir George H. King	Charlotte, N. C.
North Dakota	E. Sir William T. Perkins	Bismarck, N. D.
Ohio	E. Sir John W. Chamberlain	Tiffin, Ohio.
Oregon	E. Sir F. A. Moore	Salem, Or.
Pennsylvania	M. E. Sir John P. S. Gobin	Lebanon, Pa.
South Dakota	E. Sir John H. Babcock	Mitchell, S. D.
Tennessee	E. Sir Charles H. Eastman	Nashville, Tenn.
Texas	E. Sir John C. Kidd	Houston, Texas.
Vermont	E. Sir William H. S. Whitcomb	Burlington, Vt.
Virginia	R. E. Sir James P. Corbin	Fredericksburg, Va.
Washington	E. Sir Horace W. Tyler	Spokane, Wash.
West Virginia	E. Sir Hugh Sterling	Wheeling, W. Va.
Wisconsin	E. Sir Oliver Libbey	Green Bay, Wis.
Wyoming	E. Sir Francis E. Warren	Cheyenne, Wyo.

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GRAND COMMANDERIES NEAR THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND.

Grand Commandery of	Representative.	Residence.
Alabama		
Arizona	E. Sir E. Bentley Young	Boston, Mass.
Arkansas	E. Sir William B. Learned	Roxbury, Mass.
California	R. E. Sir James Swords	Boston, Mass.
Colorado	E. Sir Smith B. Harrington	Wollaston Heights, Mass.
Connecticut	E. Sir Arthur W. Dennis	Providence, R. I.
Dist. of Columbia	R. E. Sir Samuel C. Lawrence	Medford, Mass.
Florida	E. Sir Henry S. Rowe	Boston, Mass.
Georgia	E. Sir Henry G. Jordan	Boston, Mass.
Illinois	E. Sir Newton D. Arnold	Providence, R. I.
Indiana	E. Sir James H. Upham	Dorchester, Mass.
Indian Territory	R. E. Sir Eugene H. Richards	Boston, Mass.
Iowa	E. Sir George H. Kenyon	Providence, R. I.
Kansas	M. E. Sir Benjamin Dean	South Boston, Mass.
Kentucky	E. Sir Wyzeman Marshall	Boston, Mass.
Louisiana	E. Sir George E. Stacy	Milford, Mass.
Maryland	R. E. Sir George H. Burnham	Providence, R. I.
Maine	E. Sir Freeman C. Hersey	Boston, Mass.
Minnesota	R. E. Sir Charles A. Stott	Lowell, Mass.
Mississippi	E. Sir Benjamin W. Rowell	Lynn, Mass.
Missouri	R. E. Sir Charles C. Hutchinson	Lowell, Mass.
Montana	E. Sir Winthrop Messenger	Melrose, Mass.
Nebraska	R. E. Sir Henry W. Rugg	Providence, R. I.
New Hampshire	R. E. Sir Nelson W. Aldrich	Providence, R. I.
New Jersey	R. E. Sir William R. Walker	Pawtucket, R. I.
New York	R. E. Sir George H. Allen	Lynn, Mass.
North Carolina	R. E. Sir Edward L. Freeman	Central Falls, R. I.
North Dakota	E. Sir Charles E. Pierce	South Boston, Mass.
Ohio	R. E. Sir Caleb Saunders	Lawrence, Mass.
Oregon	R. E. Sir Charles C. Fry	Lynn, Mass.
Pennsylvania	E. Sir Arthur G. Pollard	Lowell, Mass.
South Dakota	E. Sir George E. Hilton	Lynn, Mass.
Tennessee	E. Sir Charles H. Crane	Somerville, Mass.
Texas	E. Sir J. Albert Blake	Haverhill, Mass.
Vermont	R. E. Sir Robert H. Chamberlain	Worcester, Mass.
Virginia	E. Sir Charles C. Spellman	Springfield, Mass.
Washington	E, Sir Samuel B. Spooner	Springfield, Mass.
West Virginia	E. Sir Clinton D. Sellew	Providence, R. I.
Wisconsin	R. E. Sir Edward P. Chapin	Springfield, Mass.
Wyoming	E. Sir Eugene A. Holton	Boston, Mass.

MAINE ENCAMPMENT, PORTLAND, MAINE.

CHARTER, March 18, 1821.

PAST COMMANDERS.

[While under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.]

Sir Rev. Solomon Sias.
Sir Thomas S. Bowles.
Sir Joseph M. Gerrish.
Sir Samuel Fessenden.

Maine Encampment ceased to be under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, October 10, 1849. In 1854 it was removed from Portland to Gardner, where it is now located.

VILLAGE ENCAMPMENT, GREENWICH, MASS.

CHARTER, JUNE 16, 1825.

PAST COMMANDERS.

*Sir Rev. Ezekiel L. Bascom, 1825.
*Sir Rev. Lucius R. Paige, D. D., 1826.
*Sir John Warner, 1827.
*Sir Rev. Joshua Flagg, 1828.

The last recorded Assembly of this Encampment was held April 14, 1829. Its charter was declared forfeited by a vote of the Grand Encampment, at a Special Assembly, held February 28, 1838. The records were finally restored to the Grand Recorder, November 13, 1876, and are now in the archives of the Grand Commandery.

Grand Commandery of Knights Templars,

AND THE

APPENDANT ORDERS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND.

Office of the R. E. Grand Commander,
Pawtucket, R. I., Nov. 11, A. D. 1896, A. O. 778.

General Orders,
Series 1896-97
No. 1.

The several Commanderies within this Jurisdiction are assigned for official Visitation and Inspection as follows:—

To V. Em. Sir Walter Cutting, Deputy Grand Commander,	Springfield. De Molay. Joseph Warren. Athol. Cambridge.
To Em. Sir George L. Shepley, Em. Grand Generalissimo,	Worcester County. Pilgrim. Godfrey de Bouillon. Narragansett. William Parkman.
To Em. Sir Herbert F. Morse, Em. Grand Captain General,	Boston. Washington. Milford. Haverhill. Old Colony.
To Em. Sir Winthrop Messenger, Em. Grand Senior Warden,	Saint John. Holy Sepulchre. Palestine. Bethany. Cyprus.
To Em. Sir George E. Hilton, Em. Grand Junior Warden,	Saint Bernard. Calvary. Jerusalem. South Shore. Bay State.

To Em. Sir George H. Kenyon, Em. Grand Standard Bearer,	Berkshire. Olivet.
To Em. Sir Freeman C. Hersey, Em. Grand Sword Bearer,	Gethsemane. Saint George.
To Em. Sir Albert H. White, Em. Grand Lecturer,	Newburyport. Winslow Lewis. Bristol. Trinity.
To Em. Sir E. Bentley Young, Em. Grand Lecturer,	Hugh de Payens. Saint Omer. Natick. Cœur de Lion.
To Em. Sir Charles I. Litchfield, Em. Grand Lecturer,	Sutton. Woonsocket. Northampton. Beauseant.
To Em. Sir Isaac N. Marshall, Em. Grand Lecturer,	Connecticut Valley. Saint Paul. Bethlehem. Orange.

The Inspecting Officers will report to the Grand Commander on or before Oct. 1, 1897, the condition of the Commanderies assigned to them. The Grand Commander requests the Eminent Commander of each Subordinate Commandery to send a notice of each Conclave to him and also to the Inspecting Officer assigned to said Commandery during the Templar year.

This Order will be read at the head of each Commandery at this first stated Conclave after its receipt.

WM. R. WALKER,
Grand Commander.

Attest:

B. W. Rowell,
Grand Recorder.

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT, 1895-98.

Elected and Appointed August 27 and 28, 1895.

M.·. E.·. Grand Master.

W. La Rue Thomas................................Maysville, Ky.

R.·. E.·. Deputy Grand Master.

Reuben Hedly Lloyd.. ....San Francisco, Cal.

V.·. E.·. Grand Generalissimo.

Henry B. Stoddard................................Bryan, Texas.

V.·. E.·. Grand Captain General.

George M. Moulton....... ....Chicago, Ill.

V.·. E.·. Grand Senior Warden.

Rev. Henry W. Rugg, D. D..................... Providence, R. I.

V.·. E.·. Grand Junior Warden.

William B. Melish................................Cincinnati, Ohio.

V.·. E.·. Grand Treasurer.

H. Wales Lines...................................Meriden, Conn.

V.·. E.·. Grand Recorder.

William H. Mayo........ ....St. Louis, Mo.

V.·. E.·. Grand Prelate.

Rev. Cornelius Twing .... New York, N. Y.

V.·. E.·. Grand Standard Bearer.

Thomas O. Morris................................Nashville, Tenn.

V.·. E.·. Grand Sword Bearer.

Edgar S. Dudley...... ....Nebraska.

V.·. E.·. Grand Warder.

Joseph A. Locke........... ....Portland, Me.

V.·. E.·. Grand Captain of the Guard.

Frank H. Thomas........ . ...Washington, D. C.

GRAND COMMANDERS.

Grand Commandery.	Year.	Grand Commanders.	Address.
Alabama	1896	Fletcher J. Cowart	Troy, Ala.
Arizona	1896	Ephraim J. Bennett	Phœnix, Ari.
Arkansas	1896	George Thornburgh	Little Rock, Ark.
California	1896	Trowbridge H. Ward	San Francisco, Cal.
Colorado	1896	Eugene P. Shove	Colorado Springs, Col.
Connecticut	1896	Lyman H. Johnson	New Haven, Conn.
District of Columbia	1896	Frank H. Thomas	Washington, D. C.
Florida	1896	Wilber P. Webster	Jacksonville, Fla.
Georgia	1896	William H. Fleming	Augusta, Ga.
Illinois	1895	Augustus L. Webster	Danville, Ill.
Indiana	1896	Winfield T. Durbin	Anderson, Ind.
Indian Territory	1896	James E. Humphrey	Purcell, I. T.
Iowa	1896	Thomas R. Ercanbrach	Anamosa, Iowa.
Kansas	1896	William C. Holmes	Parsons, Kan.
Kentucky	1896	Reginald H. Thompson	Louisville, Ky.
Louisiana	1896	M. L. Scovell	Shreveport, La.
Maryland	1895	Wm. H. Clark	Baltimore, Md.
Maine	1896	Albro E. Chase	Portland, Me.
Mass. and Rhode Island	1896	William R. Walker	Pawtucket, R. I.
Michigan	1896	Edward D. Wheeler	Manistee, Mich.
Minnesota	1896	John H. Randall	Minneapolis, Minn.
Mississippi	1896	J. M. Buchanan	Meridian, Miss.
Missouri	1896	Ira V. McMillan	Mayville, Mo.
Montana	1896	Edward D. Newell	Helena, Mont.
Nebraska	1895	Charles B. French	Kearney, Neb.
New Hampshire	1896	John Hatch	Greenland, N. H.
New Jersey	1895	Robert Dingwell	Newark, N. J.
New York	1896	Arthur McArthur	Troy, N. Y.
North Carolina	1896	William A. Withers	Raleigh, N. C.
North Dakota	1896	William T. Perkins	Bismark, N. D.
Ohio	1895	Barton Smith	Toledo, Ohio.
Oregon	1895	B. E. Lippincott	Portland, Or.
Pennsylvania	1896	Samuel S. Yohe	Easton, Penn.
South Dakota	1896	James J. Casselman	Huron, So. D.
Tennessee	1896	Robert W. Haynes	Jackson, Tenn.
Texas	1896	J. F. Brinkerhoff	Waco, Texas.
Vermont	1896	Robert J. Wright	Newport, Vt.
Virginia	1895	John T. Parkam	Petersburgh, Va.
Washington	1896	Geo. E. Dickson	Ellensburg, W.
West Virginia	1896	John C. Richeloffer	Wheeling, W. Va.
Wisconsin	1895	Geo. H. Hopper	Racine, Wis.
Wyoming	1896	Adrian J. Parshall	Cheyenne, Wyo.

GRAND RECORDERS.

Grand Commandery.	Year.	Grand Recorder.	Address.
Alabama	1896	E. R. Hastings	Montgomery, Ala.
Arizona	1896	Geo. J. Roskruge	Phœnix, Ari.
Arkansas	1896	James A. Henry	Little Rock, Ark.
California	1896	Thomas H. Caswell	San Francisco, Cal.
Colorado	1896	Edward C. Parmelee	Denver, Col.
Connecticut	1896	Eli C. Birdsey	Meriden, Conn.
District of Columbia	1896	Isaac L. Johnson	Washington, D. C.
Florida	1896	William A. McLean	Jacksonville, Fla.
Georgia	1896	Samuel P. Hamilton	Savannah, Ga.
Illinois	1896	Gil. W. Barnard	Chicago, Ill.
Indiana	1896	William H. Smythe	Indianapolis, Ind.
Indian Territory	1896	Leo E. Bennett	Muskogee, I. T.
Iowa	1896	Alfred Wingate	Des Moines, Io.
Kansas	1896	A. M. Callahan	Topeka, Kan.
Kentucky	1896	Lorenzo D. Croninger	Covington, Ky.
Louisiana	1896	Richard Lambert	New Orleans, La.
Maryland	1896	John H. Miller	Baltimore, Md.
Maine	1896	Stephen Berry	Portland, Maine.
Mass. and Rhode Island.	1896	Benjamin W. Rowell	Boston, Mass.
Michigan	1896	John A. Gerow	Detroit, Mich.
Minnesota	1896	Thomas Montgomery	St. Paul, Minn.
Mississippi	1896	John L. Power	Jackson, Miss.
Missouri	1896	William H. Mayo	St. Louis, Mo.
Montana	1896	Cornelius Hedges	Helena, Mont.
Nevada	1896	William R. Bowers	Omaha, Neb.
New Hampshire	1896	George P. Cleaves	Concord, N. H.
New Jersey	1896	Charles Bechtel	Trenton, N. J.
New York	1896	John F. Schafer	Albany, N. Y.
North Carolina	1896	Horace H. Munson	Wilmington, N. C.
North Dakota	1896	Frank J. Thompson	Fargo, N. D.
Ohio	1896	John N. Bell	Dayton, Ohio.
Oregon	1895	James F. Robinson	Eugene, Oregon.
Pennsylvania	1896	Mont. H. Smith	Philadelphia, Penn.
South Dakota	1896	Geo. A. Pettigrew	Flandreau, South Dak.
Tennessee	1896	Wilber F. Foster	Nashville, Tenn.
Texas	1896	G. A. Gibbons	Waco, Texas.
Vermont	1896	Warren G. Reynolds	Burlington, Vt.
Virginia	1896	James B. Blanks	Petersburg, Va.
Washington	1896	Yancey B. Blalock	Walla Walla, Wash.
West Virginia	1896	R. C. Dunnington	Fairmont, W. Va.
Wisconsin	1896	John W. Laflin	Milwaukee, Wis.
Wyoming	1896	John C. Baird	Cheyenne, Wyo.
Canada	1896	Daniel Spry	Barrie, Ontario.
England	1896	W. Tinkler	Lincoln Inn Fields London, England.
Ireland	1896	John A. Baker	Dublin, Ireland.
Scotland	1896	L. Mackersey	Edinburgh, Scotland.
Victoria	1896	Charles Chapman	Victoria, Australia.

COMMITTEES ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Grand Commandery.	Committee.	Address.
Alabama	George F. Moore	Montgomery, Ala.
Arizona	Archibald J. Sampson	Phœnix, Ari.
Arkansas	Oliver C. Gray	Little Rock, Ark.
California	William A. Davies	San Francisco, Cal.
Canada	Henry Robertson	Collingwood, Ont.
Colorado	Harper M. Orahood	Denver, Col.
Connecticut	Hugh Stirling	Bridgeport, Conn.
District of Columbia	None	
Florida	None	
Georgia	Roland B. Hall	Macon, Ga.
Illinois	John C. Smith	Chicago, Ill.
Indiana	Nicholas R. Ruckle	Indianapolis, Ind.
Indian Territory	None	
Iowa	J. C. W. Coxe	Washington, Iowa.
Kansas	A. M. Callahan	Topeka, Kan.
Kentucky	Charles R. Woodruff	Louisville, Ky.
Louisiana	J. Q. A. Fellows	New Orleans, La.
Maryland	F. J. S. Gorgas	Baltimore, Md.
Maine	Stephen Berry	Portland, Me.
Mass. and Rhode Island	Henry W. Rugg, D. D.	Providence, R. I.
Michigan	John A. Gerow	Detroit, Mich.
Minnesota	Thomas Montgomery	St. Paul, Minn.
Mississippi	E. G. De Lap	Natchez, Miss.
Missouri	William H. Mayo	St. Louis, Mo.
Montana	Cornelius Hedges	Helena, Mont.
Nebraska	William T. Whitmarsh	Omaha, Neb.
New Hampshire	Albert S. Waite	Newport, N. H.
New Jersey	Charles Bechtel	Trenton, N. J.
New York	Jesse B. Anthony	Troy, N. Y.
North Carolina	John C. Chase	Wilmington, N. C.
North Dakota	None	
Ohio	Enoch T. Carson	Cincinnati, Ohio.
Oregon	J. M. Hodson	Portland, Ore.
Pennsylvania	Lee S. Smith	Pittsburgh, Pa.
South Dakota	Samuel H. Jumper	Flandreau, So. Dakota.
Tennessee	Wilbur F. Foster	Nashville, Tenn.
Texas	R. M. Elgin	Houston, Tex.
Vermont	Kittredge Haskins	Brattleboro, Vt.
Virginia	None	
Washington	Yancy C. Blalock	Walla Walla, Wash.
West Virginia	Albert B. White	
Wisconsin	William C. Swain	Milwaukee, Wis.
Wyoming	John C. Baird	Cheyenne, Wyo.

AMERICAN ORDER OF THE TEMPLE.

LIST OF GRAND MASTERS OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

NAME.	Years.	RESIDENCE.	Remarks.
I. De Witt Clinton..........	1816-1828	New York, N. Y...	Died February 11, 1828.
II. Jonathan Nye.	1829-1834	Claremont, N. H..	Died April 1, 1843.
III. James Madison Allen....	1835-1844	Cayuga, N. Y......	Died——, -——.
IV. Archibald Bull...........	1844-1846	Troy, N. Y.........	Died December 22, 1865.
V. William B. Hubbard.....	1847-1858	Columbus, Ohio...	Died January 5, 1866.
VI. Benjamin B. French.....	1859-1864	Washington, D. C..	Died August 12, 1870.
VII. Henry L. Palmer.........	1865-1867	Milwaukee, Wis...	....
VIII. William Sewell Gardner.	1868-1870	Newton, Mass.....	Died October 14, 1887.
IX. John Q. A. Fellows......	1871-1873	New Orleans, La...	....
X. James H. Hopkins.......	1874-1876	Pittsburgh, Pa.....	....
XI. Vincent L. Hurlbut......	1877-1879	Chicago, Ill.........	Died July 24, 1896.
XII. Benjamin Dean....	1880-1882	Boston, Mass......	....
XIII. Robert E. Withers........	1883-1885	Wytheville, Va.....	....
XIV. Charles Roome...........	1886-1889	New York, N. Y...	Died June 28, 1890.
XV. John P. S. Gobin.	1889-1892	Lebanon, Pa.......	....
XVI. Hugh McCurdy.	1892-1895	Corunna, Mich....	....
XVII. Warren La Rue Thomas..	1895-	Maysville, Ky.	....

GRAND ENCAMPMENT SUBORDINATE COMMANDERIES.

As reported to Triennial Conclave of 1895, at Boston, Massachusetts, omitting those which have been transferred to the Grand Commanderies of Arizona, District of Columbia, Florida, and Indian Territory.

NAME AND NUMBER.	LOCATION.	Year of Charter.	Members.
St. John, No. 1.......	Wilmington, Delaware.............	1868	361
Honolulu, No. 1...........	Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands........	1871	32
Idaho, No. 1...............	Boise City, Idaho.....................	1883	75
Lewiston, No. 2...........	Lewiston, Idaho.......................	1892	19
Moscow, No. 3.............	Moscow, Idaho........................	1892	31
Gate City, No. 4.....	Pocatello, Idaho......................	1895	33
Santa Fe, No. 1............	Santa Fe, New Mexico..............	1871	24
Las Vegas, No. 2..........	Las Vegas, New Mexico............	1883	52
Pilgrim, No. 3.............	Albuquerque, New Mexico..........	1883	74
McGrorty, No. 4...........	Deming, New Mexico...............	1889	57
Aztec, No. 5....	Raton, New Mexico................	1895	35
Rio Hundo, No 6...........	Roswell, New Mexico..............	1895	
De Witt Clinton, No. 1	Virginia, Nevada....................	1868	94
Eureka, No. 2..............	Eureka, Nevada......................	1880	42
Guthrie, No. 1.............	Guthrie, Oklahoma..................	1892	46
Oklahoma, No. 2....	Oklahoma, Oklahoma...............	1892	56
Ascension, No. 3...........	El Reno, Oklahoma.................	1895	29
Charleston, No. 1..........	Charleston, South Carolina.........	1823	61
Columbia, No. 2...........	Columbia, South Carolina..........	1892	34
Spartanburg, No. 3........	Spartanburg, South Carolina........	1895	27
Utah, No. 1................	Salt Lake City, Utah...............	1874	91
El Monte, No. 2...........	Ogden, Utah.........................	1886	78
Total...			1,351
Grand Commanderies..............................		42	
Subordinate Commanderies.......................		998	
Knights Templars.................................			110,570
Total membership, Grand Encampment of United States..........			111,913

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE, 1896.

To the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

A man's first thought naturally relates to his own people; to those included within the lines of kinship, to whom he is drawn by special ties of interest and affection. Home relations have a just prominence. We rightly accord the first place in our sympathies and in our regard to those who sit with us about the same table and gather about the same fireside, day by day, and year by year. Beginning in this way, there follows a broadening of vision and of feeling, until in the widest scope, the solidarity of the human race becomes evident, as we appreciate the truth of the statement: "No man liveth to himself, and none dieth to himself;" and only then are we prepared to acknowledge a brotherhood which includes the souls of all God's children.

In preparing this review, we have in mind first of all, our home organization, the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, to which our report is addressed. It is this Body, under whose sanctions we write, which may be assumed to have the most interest in tracing the course pursued by its Committee on Correspondence. To meet this assumed interest, a copy of the report herein presented goes into the hands of each member of our Grand Commandery; and the supposition is, that it will be read more or less carefuly by a goodly number of those who thus receive it. To these Sir Knights and brethren we give our first salutation. We rejoice with you, members of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, in the growth and prosperity of the Templar Order in this jurisdiction. It is under happy auspices that we come to the *ninetieth* annual conclave of this Grand Body. Well may we pause a moment to consider a bright and inspiring past, to observe the present condition of numerical and financial strength, and to notice the encouraging outlook. While such a scrutiny quickens a glad and grateful feeling, it should likewise affect us with a profound sense of new responsibility imposed by increased resources and augmented influence. It is a just law of accountability, to which organizations, as well as individuals are bound, that declares "Unto whomsoever much is given of the same much is required."

Our thought, however, is not circumscribed by local limitations, and our vision readily and quickly passes the lines of the home jurisdiction, to take into account conditions and movements which mark the progress of sister jurisdictions. So it is we engage in the welcome task of giving examination to the Proceedings of various Grand Bodies, which represent Masonic Templarism in its expression at this present time. It is by this wide survey that we hope to prepare a report which shall have value for readers at home, and for those afar off. It is in such a work and for this purpose, that we seek to realize the close relationship which exists between the different jurisdictions, and between the members of the Templar Order resident in widely separated localities. It is an incentive to present writing, that the expression of our thoughts and opinions respecting the various matters treated in this report, will be noted and commented upon by some who reside in distant localities, as well as by others who, by a comparative nearness of residence may be classified as neighbors and associates.

Nor should we forget the body of Correspondents, who engage in such a service as that to which we are appointed, and who, presumably, are careful readers of various reports sent out by members of the Guild. It is not to them that this report is addressed; nor is it for the promotion of those delightful interchanges of friendly feeling, as between those who are in close and cordial fellowship, by reason of a common service in which they are engaged, that the utmost of our thought should be given. Yet we are not insensible of our relations to those able writers of reports on Correspondence. Some of. them come to the doing of their work with such acquisitions of learning and of expresion, as to make their words specially important and attractive; and all the members of this band of reporters, we believe to be actuated by the spirit of a goodly fellowship, by a high appreciation of the objects of our illustrious Order, and by a desire to advance its best interests, that so it may become more honorable and more useful in the world. We present our cordial greeting to these writers of Templar Correspondence, who, perhaps better than any other class, can properly judge the merits or the demerits of the work which here engages our attention.

The present review is prepared by the two members of the Committee on Correspondence, according to a division of labor satisfactory to themselves. The initial letter appended to the review of each jurisdiction indicates the writer of that portion of the report. It is proper to state that there has been no comparison of views by the two members, each having done his own share of the work independent of the other, and with an understanding that there is no restriction placed on the expression of individual opinion. The first named member of the Committee is responsible for the opening and closing portions of the report.

ALABAMA, 1895.

The thirty-fifth annual conclave was held in Mobile, May 8 and 9, 1895. Nine Commanderies were represented. The Grand Commander, Right Eminent Sir Charles Wheelock, delivered a brief address, and reported his official actions during the year, none of which seem to be out of the usual course of Templar procedure. The Grand Recorder, Sir Edmund R. Hastings, an honored and zealous member of the Order, and an efficient officer, died during the year and a fitting tribute was paid to his memory and worth. No important action in the way of legislation was taken by the Grand Body. We note with satisfaction that on the evening of the first day's session, the Grand Commandery attended church in a body, where an excellent discourse was delivered by the Eminent Grand Prelate, Rev. Owen P. Fitzsimmons. This custom is appropriate and might well be more generally observed. A part of the day following was used in the way of an excursion down the bay to Ft. Morgan.

The report on Correspondence, by Sir George F. Moore is both readable and suggestive. He departs from the usual course in the preparation of such a paper, and sets forth his opinion pertaining to various important matters under topical headings. We have tried that plan in writing reports for other Grand Bodies, and have found it in many respects an excellent system of procedure. It enables a reviewer to bring together under one classification, not only his own opinion pertaining to the topic treated, but such references as he may be inclined to select from other writings. But so far as we are advised, that kind of a report is not as popular among Correspondents as the old style method.

Bro. Moore's views in most respects seem to be of a wise and conservative character. He thinks that it would be better for Commanderies, when attending the services in a church, to go without wearing the Templar uniform. But he does not insist very strongly on this opinion. He does object, however, most decidedly, to parading with a band, when attending Divine service. His words on this subject are as follows:

> We have time and again expressed our views on the subject of attending services in uniform, and still adhere to them. We prefer that the Commandery should attend *en mufti*, rather than in costume, but we do not object to the uniform on such occasions, for we remember that searching question, "Oh man, who art thou that judgest thy brother?" But we do *not* like the use of the band on such occasions. It may discourse "sweetly solemn music," but it also arouses the suspicion in the minds of some of us that but for the *band* and the uniforms the services would not have been heard by so many Knights.

There are ten Commanderies in Alabama, and the total membership as reported May 8, 1895, was 376, a gain during the year of 9. Sir Fletcher J. Cowert of Troy, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir H. Clay Armstrong of Montgomery, Grand Recorder. Sir Geo. F. Moore was continued as Committee on Correspondence.

R.

Arizona, 1895.

R. E. Sir Alexander G. Oliver, Grand Commander, presided over the third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery, convened at the City of Prescott, on Wednesday, November 13, 1895. The Grand Commander in his address noted some of the difficulties which stood in the way of the Knights of Arizona who desired to attend the Triennial of the Grand Encampment, held in Boston last year. He made the long journey, however, and seems to have enjoyed the trip, taken by way of San Francisco and in company with the representatives of the Grand Commandery of California. He speaks of the parade on August 27, 1895, as "the greatest parade of Knights Templars that the world ever looked upon." Among his recommendations was the following:

> This Grand Commandery has not secured a Grand Standard, although a number of our members have often talked over the propriety of having one made suitable for this jurisdiction. After viewing the grand parade at Boston, and seeing so many Commanderies carrying a beauseant and the flag of the United States, I therefore recommend that this Grand Commandery purchase an appropriate United States flag and a beauseant, to be borne in all processions of this Grand Commandery.

He had rendered no decisions during his term of office, nor had any grievances been brought to his attention. Arizona has three Commanderies, and a total membership of 114. The Proceedings are issued in neat and attractive form. There is no report on Correspondence. The next annual conclave will be held in Tucson, Nov. 11, 1896. Sir Ephraim J. Bennett of Phœnix, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Geo. J. Roskruge of Tucson, was elected Grand Recorder.

R.

Arkansas, 1896.

Eight Subordinate Commanderies of the jurisdiction were represented in the attendance at the twenty-fourth annual conclave held at Little Rock, April 21, 1896, the R. E. Grand Commander, Sir George P. Taylor presiding. He reported a brief summary of his official doings and announced several decisions, all of which were concurred in. One of these decisions covers a point of some interest. We copy question and answer as given in the Proceedings:

> During the time the charter of the Baldwin Commandery was under arrest a number of its members affiliated with a neighboring Commandery. Since then the charter of Baldwin Commandery has been restored. What is the status of Sir Knights who have so affiliated?
>
> The restoration of the charter restored each member to his former standing in Baldwin Commandery as at the time of suspension, unless the application was had under a regular certificate of the Grand Recorder as to the good standing of the affiliates in Baldwin Commandery at the time the charter was withdrawn, and without special action by the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery, the neighboring Commandery erred in affiliating such Sir Knights.

Is it to be inferred that there were two classes of members in Baldwin Commandery at the time when its charter was arrested, and that the Grand Recorder could only certify to the good standing of one class? And is it also to be inferred that if any of the other class affiliated with another Commandery, not having such a certificate, they are put back into Baldwin Commandery, and given good and regular standing, by the mere act of restoring its charter? If the decision of the Grand Commander has this scope of application, it would seem open to doubt, provided the conditions of membership, etc., in Baldwin Commandery, at the time of its suspension, were as we suppose them to have been. Presumably the members had no right to seek affiliation; they acted unlawfully, and their return to former standing could not properly give them rights and privileges which they had forfeited by their mistaken action. It would be the faithful class in the suspended Commandery, those who could have had the certificate of the Grand Recorder in case they desired to affiliate elsewhere, into whose hands, seemingly, the affairs of Baldwin Commandery would be committed, when its charter was restored. This very likely was the effect of the decision, although the meaning does not seem quite clear.

That the "neighboring Commandery" erred in admitting the members referred to, they having no dimit or certificate, admits of no question.

The transactions of the Grand Body included no matters of general interest.

An interesting report on Correspondence, covering seventy-nine pages, by Sir Fred J. H. Rickon, contains many suggestive items. The Proceedings of 37 Grand Bodies pass through the hands of the reviewer, and are analyzed, compared, criticized, in a pleasing manner and with an evident purpose to mete out even handed justice as an impartial reviewer, maintaining a courteous and fraternal disposition in the performance of such a service.

Grand Commander, Sir Geo. Thornburgh, Little Rock; Grand Recorder, Sir James Austin Henry, Little Rock; Correspondent, Sir Oliver Cromwell Gray, Little Rock. R.

CALIFORNIA, 1896.

The thirty-eighth annual conclave, held at San Francisco, April 23, 1896, was numerously attended. All the Grand Officers, with two exceptions, were in their positions at the opening of the Grand Conclave. Thirteen Past Grand Officers, sixty-seven Past Commanders, and representatives of thirty-four Subordinate Commanderies in the jurisdiction were included in the attendance. Sir Edward S. Lippitt, Grand Commander, presided and delivered a thoughtful address. Among the decisions he announced is an expression of judgment as to the proper course of procedure in a case submitted to him where there had been an alleged improper use of the ballot in a Commandery, thus keeping out companions "in every way worthy to become Knights Templars." Grand Commander Lippitt points out the steps needful to be taken to obtain a dispensation for a re-ballot within six months, and declares the law and principles which must govern under such conditions as those stated. He says:

> The dispensation would only be to re-ballot upon the application upon

> which a ballot had already been taken and at a regular meeting, which application should be in the possession of the Commandery.
>
> If elected upon a re-ballot, the companion would be entitled to receive the orders, and they could be conferred upon him by the Commandery at any time after his election without dispensation.
>
> It is not unknightly on the part of the Commandery, or any member thereof, or any committee thereof, to prevent the introduction of an unsuitable candidate, nor by all lawful means to prevent the unjust exclusion of a worthy candidate.
>
> It would be in my judgment unknightly on the part of the members of a Commandery, when a ballot is ordered to be taken upon the petiton of a companion to receive the orders of Knighthood, to leave the Asylum for the purpose of avoiding the casting of a ballot upon said petition.
>
> The ballot is a secret and sacred right, and I know of no way in which the use of the ballot can be enquired into. Title 7, Sec. 2, Statutes of Grand Encampment.
>
> There can be no question but that the exercise of this sacred right of a Knight Templar to gratify any prejudice or personal ill-will against the companion whose application is being considered, or the exercise of any spirit of revenge toward the applicant, or ill-will toward the Commandery itself, or any spirit of hostility to the growth and prosperity of the Commandery, or to be revenged for any supposed or real slight of the Commandery to a Sir Knight would not justify him in casting a black ball against a companion every way worthy, and whose accession to the Commandery would be beneficial. It does not seem possible that one who has listened to the lectures of a Knight Templar, taken its solemn obligation, entered into the spirit of its lofty ideas, could through any personal feelings of envy, prejudice or spite, use the sacred right of the ballot for the injury of the applicant or the Commandery to which he belonged.

There is no more perplexing question to deal with in a Masonic or Templar body than an alleged improper use of the secret ballot. Thus it may happen that a candidate is rejected who stands well in the community and who would be acceptable to nearly every member, consequently not a little of disturbed feeling arises. When such an exceptional case occurs it seems every way the best course for the friends of the candidate to accept the result and let matters take their course. Perhaps the one objecting member has knowledge of the character or career of the applicant which other members do not possess. Perhaps the adverse ballot has been cast with the purest motives and with regard for the best interests of Lodge or Commandery. When, however, there are several such cases, and worthy petitioners, one after another are rejected, some action seems called for.

Then is the time for conference among members, for enquiry and suggestion, perhaps for admonition. In most instances where we have had personal knowledge of the improper use of the ballot, the member responsible for the act disclosed his identity and boasted of his purpose to stop work until some grievance of his had been settled. In such a case there is no difficulty in checking the abuse. The offender should be dealt with for his wrong doing and made to suffer a just penalty. If he does his base work in absolute secrecy, taking no one into his confidence and making no expression of his purpose, there will be something more of delay and trouble, but even then there is likely to be ere long some development, or new departure, which will set matters right and restore good feeling in the body.

The legislation of Grand Commandery was for the most part of routine character. Charters were authorized for two new Commanderies, which indicates what is elsewhere shown by reports of Grand Officers and committees, viz.: that Masonic Templarism in California is enjoying a period of deserved prosperity.

The report on Correspondence, furnished by Sir Wm. A. Davies, occupies 118 closely printed pages. In expressing his well considered and decided opinions he is sometimes moved to criticism, but he is never wanting in the spirit of a true courtesy, or of that tolerant patience which knows how to wait for the right to come uppermost. He seems to be mindful of the Apostle's declaration that "the trial of our faith worketh patience." Thus he speaks of his disappointment at the results (as regards legislation) of the Grand Encampment at its session in Boston last year. He says:

> The non-action of that body has been a great disappointment to many, and yet there has been manifested a general conservative expression and determination to wait for the result with becoming patience and submission to constituted authority, with the belief that after due deliberation the Grand Encampment must respond to the will of the majority for the benefit of the whole.

Expressing his opinion as to the kind of legislation required of the Grand Encampment, for the best good of Templary, he endorses the view taken by Frater Anthony, of New York, that some considerable changes are required in the law of the Grand Encampment, and adds these words which accord with the convictions of the present writer:

> Our theory has been that the Code should be simplified, embracing constitutional provisions applicable to Grand Commanderies, leaving to each Grand Commandery the adoption of statutes and regulations for its government and that of its subordinates, conformable to the special requirements and obligations of the laws of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of its jurisdiction.

A complimentary notice is given of "the magnificent volume of Proceedings" of our Grand Commandery, for 1895, and liberal extracts are made from the address of Grand Commander Lawrence and from statistical exhibits, to show the prosperity of Templary in the jurisdiction of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Frater Davies also speaks approvingly of the report on Correspondence presented by Bro. Finch and ourself last year. He likewise refers to the supplemental report of the Triennial Committee, "a volume in itself," and uses words of unstinted praise in describing it. For ourself and those we represent we would gratefully acknowledge these varied and complimentary references. May our work entitle us to a continuance of the good opinion of Correspondent Davies and the Grand Commandery of California.

Grand Commander, Trowbridge H. Ward; Grand Recorder, Sir Thomas H. Caswell, San Francisco. R.

CANADA, 1895.

The printed Proceedings of the twelfth annual assembly of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, held at St. John, New Brunswick, August 23, 1895, make an attractive and closely printed volume of nearly two hundred pages. The portrait of Sir Will H. Whyte, Supreme Grand Master, forms the frontispiece of the volume in hand. The meetings of Great Priory are called "Assemblies," and the one convened as

above noted was well attended, there being a representation of twenty-six Preceptories out of a total of thirty-three. Several distinguished visitors were included in the attendance.

The address delivered by Sir Knight Edmund E. Sheppard, Supreme Grand Master, was one of congratulation. He says:

> It gives me unalloyed pleasure to congratulate you on the increased numerical strength and financial soundness of the Order. At the end of last year we had 1273 members and a surplus of $1262.41 in the treasury. At the end of the present year we have 1368 members, an increase of 95, with $1455.71 in the bank.

Referring to the work done by the Preceptories, which had passed under his notice, he gives expression to his opinion that much greater care is shown in conducting the ceremony and following the Ritual than was formerly the case. He exhorts to a continuance of well doing in this way of accurate and impressive expression of the Templar forms. "It must be remembered," he says, "that no Preceptory can be attractive or successful without doing the work well, and studying to confer the Orders with the grandeur and solemnity of which our Ritual is so fully capable." He refers to certain Templar organizations in Canada, which hold allegiance to a foreign body, and expresses his hope that they may be soon brought under the banner of the Great Priory of Canada. It may be mentioned in this connection, that representatives of the two Scottish Encampments in New Brunswick attended this Assembly as visitors, and were warmly welcomed. Evidently the ritual question is not regarded from as technical point of view by our Canadian brethren as by some of the Sir Knights who reside within the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of the United States. We are moved to make this statement, as we find recorded among the items of business transacted by the Great Priory, the following:

> *Resolved,* That Preceptories may confer the Red Cross Degree according to the Ritual of that Degree adopted by the Great Priory, or according to the Ritual of the Grand Encampment of the United States, as adopted by that body at the Triennial Conclave held in 1892.

Sir Henry Robertson, Past Supreme Grand Master, again presented an able and suggestive report. He wields a facile pen as shown by the opening paragraphs of his report. In referring to his examination of Proceedings in the needed preparation for his work as a reviewer, he says:

> It has been more than a glance at the doings of our Brethren; it has been a pleasant journeying through other lands. We have been where the Mayflower cast the virile Puritan seed, and rested beneath the Templar trees which grew therefrom. We have tested Southern hospitality, Kentucky and otherwise. The breath of the magnolia blossom has permeated our senses, and we have felt the hot air of deserts beneath the sea level. From over the Rockies have come stirring notes of progress, and from the far Northwest there has echoed the bugle-call to battle for the right. Hands have stretched out in friendly greeting from States which are girt about the loins of a great continent. In the large cities armies of brave Knights have passed before us in review. A voice has spoken from the nation's capitals. It has echoed from the Hub to the Golden Gate. It has breathed over the land, courtesy, and charity, and truth. Where there are true Knights, there is true manhood. The same fountain never jets forth sweet and bitter waters. The sweetest stream that flows from the uncorrupted source is charity. It is man's humanity to man. It flows side by side with justice, and hovering over it is the spirit of truth.

The sentiment of this excerpt as well as its form of expression, may well claim our notice and elicit our commendation. He explains his lack of mention of the jurisdiction of Massachusetts and Rhode Island by stating that the Proceedings for the current year had not come to hand at the time of his writing. We trust that he may have received ere this the two substantial volumes of Proceedings for Massachusetts and Rhode Island, which have been issued within the past two years.

The Great Priory of Canada includes within its jurisdiction thirty-four Preceptories, with an aggregate membership of 1368 Knights. Sir Wm. H. Whyte, Montreal, was elected Supreme Grand Master, and Sir Daniel Spry, London, Province of Ontario, was elected Grand Chancellor. Sir Knight Henry Robertson, Collingwood, Ontario, continues as Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence.

R.

COLORADO, 1896.

An attractive pamphlet of 162 pages, containing Proceedings of Grand Commandery at the twenty-first annual conclave, held at Denver, June 2, 1896, came to hand only a few weeks after the meeting. The representatives of twenty-two chartered Commanderies, all but two in the jurisdiction, and all the Grand Officers excepting the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Sword Bearer, were present.

The R. E. Grand Commander, Sir Wm. W. Rowan, delivered an address for the most part pertaining to matters of special interest to the Sir Knights of Colorado, but with occasional references of a more general import. In reporting his attendance upon the Twenty-sixth Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, at Boston, he bears testimony to the good service and Knightly bearing of the seventy Sir Knights who formed the escort of the Grand Commander and the other distinguished representatives of Colorado in their journey to and from Boston. He justly commends them also for their appearance on the day of the great parade. On this point he speaks as follows:

> Through the long and tedious march, under the marshalship of our gallant Grand G. C. G., they manifested their devotion to Knighthood and their fealty and allegiance to the Grand Commandery by not uttering a single murmur of discord or discontent. To the remaining 1600 Sir Knights of this jurisdiction let me hold up this gallant little band as an incentive for them to emulate their self-sacrifice and devotion to the cause of Templarism and the maintenance of the dignity of the Grand Commandery of Colorado. I wish to especially thank this little band, for I am very, very proud of them.

Among the recommendations of the Grand Commander was the following:

> I recommend that a Sir Knight, a member of this jurisdiction, be appointed by the Grand Commander, to be known as "Official Drill Master," whose duty it will be to visit the Commanderies throughout the State and give them such instructions in military tactics as they shall require, and as compensation for such services he shall receive $10 per day and necessary travelling expenses, the same to be paid by the Commandery employing him.

The foregoing recommendation, having the approval of a special committee to whom the address was referred, was adopted after the proposed rate of compensation had been changed to "$5 per day and travelling expenses." It depends on the man selected for the new office thus created what the expense will be. "Travelling expenses" is a term which expresses a variable quantity, even when the prefix "necessary" is made a part of the phrase. Some expenses would be counted necessary by one man which another would never think of making; but we have no doubt the right man will be found for "Official Drill Master," and we trust that the results of his work of inspection and instruction may fully justify the expense.

The Report on Correspondence, the sixteenth coming from his pen, shows the careful reading and not less careful thought of its author, Sir Harper M. Orahood, Past Grand Commander. He notes the condition of the Templar Order in each jurisdiction and makes selections from the various Proceedings, which without much of comment are brought to the reader's attention. Bro. Orahood expresses his own opinions, at times, however, and always in a clear and vigorous manner. Thus he makes reference to the preamble and resolution adopted by the Grand Commandery of Alabama in 1894, which was as follows:

> *Whereas,* The Grand Commandery of Alabama remembers with sorrow that the cross, the symbol of our faith, was displayed on the doors of saloons at the Triennial Conclave held in 1892, and at other conclaves; therefore, be it
>
> *Resolved,* That the Grand Commandery of Alabama earnestly petitions Grand Master Hugh McCurdy to use his influence to prevent the unseemly use of the cross at the next Triennial Conclave, to be held in Boston.

On this subject which has called out much of varying comment, Bro. Orahood has this to say:

> We have said very little about this matter, preferring to let others discuss it as fully as they desired. As an active member of the Triennial Committee in 1892, we can only say what every one who will think a moment knows: At the time of a Triennial, any one can buy Templar emblems and, of course, can display them when and where he pleases. No man engaged in the liquor traffic in any way can be made a Mason in Colorado. So we feel sure in saying no Templar in this jurisdiction "displayed the symbol of our faith on the doors of saloons at the Triennial Conclave held in 1892," or at any other time, as our Templars do not have saloons.

Following the above statement is an expression of opinion, in which we heartily concur, that it would be every way better and more in consonance with the character of such an Order as ours, if Grand and subordinate Commanderies would cease to dispense intoxicating liquors at their respective headquarters on Triennial occasions.

The jurisdiction of Massachusetts and Rhode Island receives kindly notice. In referring to the large volume of Proceedings issued to cover transactions and reports of 1896, including matters pertaining to the Triennial Conclave held at Boston in August of that year, our brother speaks approvingly of the way and manner in which the Grand Commander and the Trienial Committee of our home jurisdiction discharged the duty which devolved upon them. In his reference to the amount of work done in preparing for the event, etc., he says: "We may add, however, from personal observation, as well as from the reports, that this Conclave was in every way a grand success, and that our Boston and New England Fratres are entitled to great credit for their active and untiring interest and work in accomplishing this result."

Grand Commander, Sir Eugene P. Shove, Gunnison; Grand Recorder, Sir Ed. C. Parmelee, Denver; Committee on Correspondence, Sir Harper M. Orahood, Denver. R.

CONNECTICUT, 1896.

All the Grand Officers were in their places at the opening of the sixty-ninth annual conclave, held at Bridgeport, March 17, 1896. All the Commanderies within the jurisdiction were represented. There were also present 14 Past Grand Commanders and 47 Past Commanders.

Sir Hugh Stirling, Grand Commander, delivered an address in which he sets forth very clearly and concisely his official doings during the past year, and also expresses his opinion in regard to several subjects of general Templar interest. He states his position on two questions having a bearing upon membership and good standing in a Commandery, as follows:

> We believe that membership in a Masonic Body should be voluntary; measures to compel affiliation is contrary to the spirit as well as to the first principle of our Ancient Craft, and the ballot should be sufficient to prevent any undesirable or unworthy person from being received into our Order, no matter what particular business he may be engaged in. The character of the man, rather that his occupation, should concern us most. If the question of profession or occupation of a condidate is to be a qualification, it is difficult to say where the line would eventually be drawn.

He thinks Knights Templars, *as such*, may well do some benevolent work. He puts the matter in the concrete by the following statement and suggestive inference:

> In May last, the president of the Masonic Charity Foundation suggested that possibly the Templars of Connecticut would be willing to furnish the dining-room of the Home, which was then being equipped throughout, by the assistance of many of the Subordinate Lodges and some of the Grand Bodies of the State, as well as individuals.
>
> After ascertaining the amount required to suitably furnish and equip the dining-room, I requested the several Commanderies to contribute for that purpose, basing the amount from each upon their membership. It is gratifying to report that every Commandery responded and contributed its proportion. At the request of the president of the board of managers, I purchased the furniture, etc., and submit herewith a statement of the amount received and expended.
>
> It may be said, that as Master Masons, we have done our duty in the purchase and fitting up of the Home, and therefore there is no good reason why we should as Knights Templars be asked or expected to take any active part in its maintenance, the truth of which we admit; but is it not also true, that where duty ends charity begins, and what branch of our Fraternity should be more zealously engaged in deeds of charity than ours?

Most heartily would we express our approval of the position thus taken. Something more may well be expected of members of the Templar Order than what is required of them as Craftsmen in fulfilling Lodge obligations. As intimated they should count it a privilege to render a benign ministry, as they have ability and as opportunity offers, mindful of the fact that as Knights Templars they follow a Royal Leader, who, when he was on earth in mortal form, said to his disciples, "I am among you as one that serveth." We follow Him only as we give and do for the help of the poor and weak, thus making our deeds of charity illustrative of our professions.

The Grand Inspector, Sir F. A. Spencer, presented a detailed report of the condition of the several Commanderies, and received the thanks of the Grand Commandery for his "efficient discharge of the duties of his position." He was empowered to appoint Assistant Inspectors if he deems such a course expedient. The Grand Recorder, Sir Eli C. Birdsey, in his statistical exhibits and business reports, makes a gratifying showing of the numerical and financial prosperity of the Grand Commandery.

Sir Albert L. Eugene, presented the report on Correspondence, Grand Recorder Birdsey having declined to continue as correspondent, albeit his thought and pen, as Bro. Eugene courteously acknowledges, have touched some portions of the report which is of more than usual length, and marked by a careful and intelligent treatment of the various matters discussed. In his closing words he notes the bright prospects of Masonic Templarism as attested by the fact that "peace, harmony and prosperity" prevail in all the jurisdictions.

Connecticut has 11 Subordinate Commanderies, with a total membership of 2,298.

Grand Commander, Sir Lyman H. Johnson, New Haven; Grand Recorder, Sir Eli C. Birdsey, Meriden; Correspondent, Sir Hugh Stirling, Bridgport. R.

District of Columbia, 1896.

A new Grand Commandery takes its place among the constituents of the Grand Encampment. Its organization dates from January 14, 1896, on which day the representatives of the five Commanderies in the District, acting under due authority, met in Masonic Temple, Washington, D. C., where the exercises of constituting the new Grand Body took place, the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Sir Warren La Rue Thomas being present on the occasion to give his official sanction to the proceedings. The new Grand Body thus organized has governing power over 5 Commanderies whose aggregate membership is 1,532.

A constitution and rules of procedure were adopted at this meeting, also a seal, described as follows:

> The seal of this Grand Commandery shall be circular in form, two inches in diameter, on the face of which shall be struck a circle one and one-half inches in diameter, and between this circle and the periphery of the seal shall be inscribed the words, "Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, District of Columbia." In the center of the inner circle shall be engraved a Templar's cross measuring one inch, and on the four limbs of the cross shall be inscribed the Latin phrase, "*Omnia ad Dei gloriam*"—(All things to the glory of God). In the space around the cross within the inner circle shall be inscribed the words, "Constituted January 14, A. D. 1896, A. O. 778.

Sir Noble D. Larner, well and favorably known among Knights Templars, was installed Grand Commander, and Sir Frank H. Thomas, an officer of the Grand Encampment, Deputy Grand Commander, together with a full list of Grand Officers. The organization was followed by a reception and banquet.

Since the organization there have been four meetings of the Grand Body, three special conclaves, and the annual conclave, held May 11, 1896, the dongs of which are set forth in the Proceedings now in hand.

The annual conclave was numerously attended, all the Grand Officers being present, with representatives from all the Commanderies of the jurisdiction and a large number of Past Commanders. Most Eminent Sir Warren La Rue Thomas, Grand Master, was present, and was received with the honors due his exalted office.

Grand Commander Larner delivered a comprehensive address. In his report of his official acts, he called attention to his having sent the following letter to the Commander of each Commandery in his jurisdiction:

> I desire to bring to your attention, and through you to the attention of the Sir Knights of your Command, the following regulation adopted by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia:
>
> "That hereafter it shall be unlawful for any Sir Knight within the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery to wear any jewel, insignia, badge or uniform other than that belonging to the Order of Knights Templar at the same time as he shall wear his Knight Templar uniform and insignia, and while attending the Conclaves or Assemblies of any Body of Knights Templar, or on public occasions when appearing in said Knights Templar uniform."
>
> From my observations recently I feel convinced that many of our Sir Knights are not aware of the existence of such a law in our jurisdiction. I therefore direct that you, by such means as may be deemed best, cause the Sir Knights of your Commandery to be notified of the existence of the above-quoted law, and that in the future the same be rigidly enforced.

He advocates a permanent home for the Grand Encampment, and expresses his opinion that Washington offers the most desirable location for headquarters. He says very truly that the selection of such headquarters would not bind the Grand Encampment to the holding of Triennial Conclaves in the city where such headquarters were established. The great gatherings of Templars might be held elsewhere. The Grand Commandery by vote approved the recommendation of the Grand Commander on this subject, as in other matters of less general interest.

The election of officers for the ensuing Templar year resulted in the advancement of Sir Frank H. Thomas to the position of Grand Commander, and his brief address on assuming its duties is printed in the Proceedings. He declares his intention of taking action looking to the permanent locating of headquarters for the Grand Encampment in the City of Washington.

There is no report on Correspondence. In place of such a report several valuable appendices are printed. Appendix A, includes the Returns of Subordinate Commanderies; Appendix B, covers proposed legislation in the matter of Templar uniform; and then follows some 20 pages of statistical exhibit in which appear the names of all the members of the five Commanderies allegiant to the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia. The pages thus made a part of the printed Proceedings of 1896 have a present value, and they will not decrease in interest and value as the years go by.

Grand Commander, Sir Frank H. Thomas; Grand Recorder, Sir I. La Rue Johnson. R.

FLORIDA, 1896.

The Grand Commandery of Florida is likewise a new comer into the family of Grand Templar Bodies, having been constituted August 15, 1895, under authority granted by Sir Hugh McCurdy, then Grand Master of Knights Templars in the United States. A Constitution and By-laws were adopted at that time, and Sir Wm. A. McLean of Jacksonville, was installed as Grand Commander, also other Grand Officers elected and appointed.

The Proceedings now in hand cover transactions at the second annual conclave held at Jacksonville, May 14, 1896. There were present 8 Grand Officers, and the representatives of the five Commanderies within the jurisdiction, also a goodly number of visitors.

Grand Commander McLean delivered a brief address devoted for the most part to matters of only local interest. In recommending that action be taken to authorize an interchange of Grand Representatives he touched a question which just now is receiving considerable attention. We notice that the Grand Commandery approved the recommendation by adopting the following resolutions:

> *Resolved,* That this Grand Commandery favors the system of an interchange of Grand Representatives, and therefore authorizes the Grand Commander to nominate and recommend such members of this Grand Commandery as he may deem proper to be commissioned as Grand Representatives of other jurisdictions near the Grand Commandery of Florida.
>
> *Resolved,* That the Grand Commander be, and is hereby, authorized and empowered to issue commissions to such Sir Knights of other jurisdictions as may be recommended by proper authority as Grand Representatives of the Grand Commandery of Florida near other Grand Jurisdictions.

The officers thus commissioned may not be called to any arduous duty, but opportunity will thus be given to compliment a number of zealous Sir Knights and to promote fellowship between sister Grand Commanderies.

Grand Commander, Sir Wilber P. Webster, Jacksonville; Grand Recorder, Sir Wm. A. McLean, Jacksonville. R.

GEORGIA, 1896.

Sir Joseph K. Orr, Grand Commander, presided over the thirty-fifth annual conclave, held in the City of Columbus, April 15 and 16, 1896. He gave an address which contains a graphic account of a Christmas observance, Dec. 25, 1895, by the Sir Knights of Georgia Commandery of Augusta, on which occasion "the Fraternal virtues of the Order were touchingly illustrated."

Referring to the Triennial in Boston, he says:

> We had sixty Knights in line, distinguished by their martial bearing and a cotton ball badge. We marched under the Grand Commandery Standard without carrying "old glory;" we needed no colors to remind us we belonged to a great and indissoluble union.

He describes the grand pageant in glowing terms. "To have been a participant in the Boston Triennial," he says, "will mark an epoch in our lives." He bears this testimony as to the welcome given:

> Our New England fratres opened wide the gate of their hearts and greeted us on every hand with such lavish hospitality as to forever refute any fancied charge of Puritanical coldness. Knights from the South received special attention, and it seemed to us that Georgia, perhaps, got more than her share.

Once more we quote from the report respecting the Boston Triennial:

> Georgia had comfortable headquarters and kept open house for five days. The rather too complimentary press notices brought us a good business, nearly three thousand visitors honored us by their presence. Our register shows that these came from Maine to California. A distinguished frater from the latter State, evidently a student of agriculture, after his second cup, complimented us on the delightful flavor of the tea so peculiarly indigenous to Georgia soil. Owing to the lack of diversity

in our menu, many of our visitors went off loaded with sentiment; of this we had quite a variety.

Recalling the ample hospitality exercised by the Georgia Sir Knights to a host of visitors, we can well understand the fact stated by the Grand Commander, viz.: that the expenditures somewhat exceeded the appropriation. The deficiency was promptly subscribed by members of the committee, and other Sir Knights.

On the evening of the first day's session the Grand Commandery attended religious services in the First Presbyterian Church of Columbus, and listened to a discourse on "Templar Manhood," delivered by the Grand Prelate, Rev. Sir R. B. Headden. The excellent address is printed in the Proceedings.

On the second day, after the Grand Body had closed its business, an excursion was made, under the auspices of St. Aldemar Commandery, to Warm Springs, in Merrewether County, Georgia, where a sumptuous barbecue was enjoyed by all.

The report on Correspondence by Sir Roland B. Hall, covers ninety closely printed pages, in which a carefully prepared review is presented of the Proceedings of forty-three Grand Bodies. Probably he had not received the Proceedings of Massachusetts and Rhode Island at the time of his writing, as this jurisdiction is not included in the number reviewed. In his "Conclusion," Frater Hall presents statistics as follows:

From the Proceedings reviewed there were in existence 955 Subordinate Commanderies. Of this number 907 were represented at Grand Conclaves. Absent, or unrepresented, 48. The largest membership is that of Pennsylvania, 10,943; the smallest membership, Arizona, 103. The only two Grand Commanderies showing a loss are Missouri 46 and Tennessee 29. The greatest increase was that of Pennsylvania, 349; Ohio, a close second with 348. The smallest increase was in Washington, amounting to 2. Arkansas sees her two and goes two better. The largest percentage of increase is credited to Wyoming, 11½ per cent.

Had he received the Proceedings of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, for 1895, he would doubtless have revised the foregoing statements. The membership in our home jurisdiction was reported in October of last year as 11,501, being an increase of 1,009 during the year.

Grand Commander, Sir Wm. H. Fleming, Augusta; Grand Recorder, Sir S. P. Hamilton, Savannah; Correspondent, Sir Roland B. Hall, Macon. R.

ILLINOIS, 1895.

Sixty-three Commanderies were represented in the attendance at the thirty-ninth annual conclave, held in Masonic Temple, Chicago, Oct. 22, 1896. All the Grand Officers were present, also nineteen Past Grand Officers and thirty-seven Past Commanders. Sir Henry H. Montgomery, Grand Commander, delivered an address in which he congratulates the members on the prosperous condition of Masonic Templarism in Illinois and throughout the country. In presenting a report of his official acts he announces the granting of a dispensation for one new Commandery, and on the proper showing of its organization and regular procedure the Grand Body authorized the issue of a charter.

A waiver of jurisdiction by a Commandery over its material must be taken by a secret ballot, and must be unanimous.

This decision of the Grand Master was approved by the Grand Encampment at Boston in 1895, an explicit declaration being made, viz.: "The waiving of jurisdiction by a Commandery is substantially the same as granting a petition for the Orders, and in all cases must be by secret ballot and unanimous."

Grand Commander Montgomery gives considerable space to the Triennial in Boston and frees his mind respecting some of the arrangements of the Parade, as follows:

The day could hardly have been more suitable for the occasion—cloudy, but no rain. In pursuance of the orders of R. E. Sir Samuel C. Lawrence, Grand Marshal, the Illinois Division (the 10th) promptly at 9 o'clock formed on the south side of Commonwealth Avenue, with right resting on Exeter Street. Then began the greatest labor of the day, *the waiting*.

Hour after hour passed before the Ninth Division uncovered, the solid phalanx of the first divisions steadily moving in the meantime. After 1 o'clock our division for the first time received the command to move; not only dozens, but hundreds, having dropped out of ranks from exhaustion. Notwithstanding all this, Illinois made a highly creditable showing, the report of the Chief of Staff hereto appended showing over 1,000 in line. In this connection it is but just to say that Illinois was grossly imposed upon, in that no tickets for reserved seats for ladies could possibly be obtained, although persistent efforts were made to obtain them. Aside from this, and the further fact that we were badly victimized in the matter of horses, Illinois could not complain. The well-known "shell game" is a virtue, compared with the trick the Boston jockey played in furnishing our horses.

It is with exceeding regret that we learn of this imposition which the Illinois Sir Knights suffered. The alleged sharp practice on the part of a Boston jockey hardly admits of an excuse. We suppose it must stand out against Boston's proverbial fair dealing. As regards the complaint that no reserved seats for ladies could be obtained, we are confident that there must have been a mistake somewhere, possibly on the part of those applying for such seats, in not seeking them at the right time or place. We know that there were reserved seats held until the day of the parade, for ladies accompanying Sir Knights, and those seats ought to have been available in answer to the request of our brethren from Illinois. The committee sought to show impartial and courteous attentions to all visitors, and it is a cause of regret that they failed to satisfy expectations in even a single instance.

Sir John Carson Smith gives added interest and attractiveness to the Proceedings here reviewed, by furnishing a report in which many wholesome sentiments are set forth and emphasized. Gen. Smith writes both to please and to instruct. His strong personality appears in all his writings. He is identified with the scenes and events he describes, and consequently there is an added charm attached to his words. In the report of 1895 he presents a paper of some 60 pages, entitled "Around the world with Gen. John C. Smith," in which he chronicles some of his many delightful experiences in a trip around the world, entered upon Nov. 26, 1894, and only really ended by his return to Chicago, Sept. 2, 1895. The paper is interesting not only because of its vivid descriptions of places visited by Gen. Smith and daughter in their journey of upwards of 31,000 miles, but by the beautiful illustrations of varied character interspersed in the narrative. This part of the report is followed by a beautifully colored presentation of "Old Glory," concerning which he writes in a glowing outburst of patriotic admiration. Our thought is in accord with his expressed opinion that it is everyway appropriate for Knights Templars to display their country's flag in their Asylums, and to bear it aloft when they appear as a Commandery on the streets. We would have no compulsion in this matter. We recognize the fact that there is no Templar "landmark" enjoining such a use of the flag of our country. There is no just cause for reflecting adversely on the patriotism of Templar Bodies who do not display the flag in their Asylums and on parade. But we are glad to note the trend in the direction of such a display of the national colors, and our thought is that Commanderies generally will come ere long to follow the example of those Templar Bodies which already have provided for this special recognition of their country's flag.

Grand Commander, Sir Augustus L. Webster, Danville; Grand Recorder, Sir Gil. W. Barnard, Chicago; Correspondent, Sir John C. Smith, Chicago. R.

INDIAN TERRITORY, 1895.

The Grand Commandery of Indian Territory was constituted at Muskogee, December 27, 1895, a warrant authorizing such procedure having been issued by Sir Warren La Rue Thomas, Grand Master. Under the direction of Sir Wm. H. Mayo, who attended as representative of the Grand Master, three Commanderies within the Territory were duly organized into a Grand Commandery. A constitution was adopted, and Grand Officers were elected and installed.

There being no funds available for the use of Grand Commandery, a vote was passed asking a loan from Muskogee

Commandery, the same to be repaid as soon as possible. The following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to select a seal and that the Subordinate Commanderies be required to submit their charters to the Right Eminent Grand Commander and Grand Recorder, to be approved and signed and sealed by them in lieu of issuing new charters.

A pamphlet of eighteen pages gives an account of these and other transactions connected with the first meeting of the Grand Commandery organized as before stated, together with the names of members belonging to the three Commanderies, 113 Sir Knights in all. This seems to be a very small membership with which to start a Grand Commandery ; but the Templar situation in Indian Territory is said to be peculiar, and the need of a new governing organization is evident to those best acquainted with the local condition and needs.

Grand Commander, Sir Robert W. Hill, Muskogee ; Grand Recorder, Sir Lee E. Bennett, Muskogee. R.

INDIANA, 1896.

The first thing which attracts our notice as we turn the pages of this substantial volume of Proceedings, is the number of its illustrations—full page portraits of distinguished Sir Knights who have held exalted official positions in the Grand Commandery of Indiana. After the frontispiece, which shows the features of Sir Winfield T. Durbin, Grand Commander for the present Templar year, comes another picture, which presents the likeness of Sir Wm. H. Smythe, Grand Recorder, and then, farther along in the volume, we find the following series of pictures representing Past Grand Commanders of the jurisdiction :

Henry C. Lawrence, 1854–57 ; Ephraim Colestock, 1857–58 ; George W. Porter, 1858–59 ; William Pelan, 1859–60 ; Solomon D. Bayless, 1860–64 ; William Hacker, 1864–66 ; Harvey G. Hazelrigg, 1866–68 ; Thomas Newby, 1868–70 ; David P. Whedon, 1870–71 ; Elbridge G. Hamilton, 1871–72 ; Charles Cruft, 1872–73 ; Edwin D. Palmer, 1873–74 ; Andrew H. Hamilton, 1874–75 ; Nicholas R. Ruckle, 1875–76 ; Erville B. Bishop, 1876–77 ; Augustus D. Lynch, 1877–78 ; Alexander Thomas, 1878–79 ; Salathiel T. Williams, 1879–80 ; Henry G. Thayer, 1880–81 ; John H. Hess, 1881–82 ; Samuel B. Sweet, 1882–83 ; Richard L. Woolsey, 1883–84 ; Walter Vail, 1884–85 ; Henry C. Adams, 1885–86 ; Ephraim W. Patrick, 1886–87 ; George W. F. Kirk, 1887–88 ; Reuben Peden, 1888–89 ; Duncan T. Bacon, 1889–90 ; Henry H. Lancaster, 1890–91 ; Irvin B. Webber, 1891–92 ; Joseph A. Manning, 1892–93 ; Simeon S. Johnson, 1893–94 ; Charles W. Slick, 1894–95, and Walter M. Hindman, 1895–96.

The thirty-four personal embellishments will make the 1896 issue of Proceedings a specially valuable volume for preservation.

The attendance at the annual conclave—the forty-second —held at Indianapolis, April 15, 1896, was well attended, all the thirty-seven Subordinate Commanderies being represented.

Sir Walter M. Hindman, Grand Commander, delivered an address which occupies twenty-eight pages of the printed Proceedings. He reports the "healthful growth" of the Order in Indiana.

Among his six decisions announced was one of considerable interest, made in answer to the following statement and questions submitted by the Em. Commander of Terre Haute Commandery, No. 16 :

1st—The Commandery will open at noon, August 24th, preparatory to making a pilgrimage to Boston, as you have so graciously permitted. 2d —The Commandery will remain open, and under the control of the officers until their return from Boston, perhaps two or three weeks. 3d—The stated conclave falls on August 31st, while the Commandery is open, but most of the officers and members absent from Terre Haute on the pilgrimage. It is important that some business should be transacted at said stated conclave. 4th—There will be present in Terre Haute at that time the Generalissimo, several Past Commanders, and more than a quorum of members, also the Recorder.

Question 1. Can the latter named convene and transact business while the Commandery is open and absent from the city ?

Question 2. If so convened will they formally open or transact business under the opening of special conclave of August 24th ?

Question 3. Can the same Commandery have two conclaves open at the same time ?

EDWARD GILBERT, *P. E. C.*

Answer:

Em. Sir Gilbert:

DEAR SIR AND FRATER.—According to your statement, on August 31, 1895, the time for the stated conclave of your Commandery, the Commandery open and under charge of the proper officers will be out of the city. That being the case, the officers and members who may remain at home cannot open the Commandery. The Commandery is open and out of the city. A Commandery cannot hold two conclaves at the same time at different places.

Courteously yours,
WALTER M. HINDMAN,
Grand Commander.

This decision was passed upon by the Committee on Jurisprudence who endorsed it in part, viz.:

> Your committee report that in their opinion there is no authority for opening a Commandery for the purpose of making an excursion or journey. The Commandery as a body being absent from the jurisdiction by official permission of the Grand Commandery, no business can lawfully be transacted by the members remaining at home.

The report of the committee was adopted by the Grand Commandery, thus declaring the only safe and equitable rule of procedure. The other decisions of the Grand Commander were approved.

The report of Triennial Committee shows that there were present in Boston on the occasion of the Triennial Conclave "435 Sir Knights, accompanied by 386 ladies, representing every Commandery in Indiana. The headquarters were at Mechanics' Institute Building where a graceful hospitality was dispensed during each day of the Conclave. The Committee expended $3,061.98, and returned to Grand Commandery a balance of $263.02.

On recommendation of a special committee to whom the subject had been referred, the Grand Commandery expressed its sense of abhorrence of the atrocities perpetrated by the Turks upon the Armenian Christians:

> Whereas, it is current news that the Armenians, being Christians, are being subjected to gross inhumanity by the Turks; and
>
> Whereas, the Order of "Knights Templar" profess to be the champions of the Christian religion, having vowed to wield the sword in its defense, and while we may not be permitted to wield our swords, yet we can give expression to our feelings on account of the atrocities perpetrated; therefore, be it
>
> *Resolved,* That our Representatives in Congress be furnished with a copy of this expression, and that they be urged to use their best endeavors, through the proper channels of our Government, to at once put a stop to the murder of Christian men, women and children of Armenia.

This timely action might well be imitated by all Grand Commanderies, for in this way an additional pressure would be brought to bear upon those who have official influence to do all that is possible in putting a stop to the murderous work of the Turks, which has been going on for years in spite of the protest of Christendom.

Sir N. R. Ruckle presents a report on Correspondence which shows extensive and careful reading, and discriminating thought as well. Under California he expresses his opinion, wisely and temperately as we think, respecting a proper treatment of non-affiliates. He says:

> It cannot be denied that a Templar in his Masonic associations must be governed by the legislation of the Grand Lodge of his jurisdiction. It is admitted that the Grand Lodge can lawfully, and without injustice, limit or abrogate the rights and privileges of unaffiliates in their relations to its Lodges, but it cannot, with a shadow of justice, destroy the Masonic life of an unaffiliate by a mere declaration. A dimit is not a certificate of expulsion. The Grand Lodge cannot equitably legislate upon the relations of a Mason to any "regular" Masonic Body.
>
> The frater of the correspondent's paragraphs has the right to use all his efforts to secure Templar legislation to exclude the non-affiliated Master Mason from Templar intercourse and membership. Such legislation, when secured, can be enforced by the Commandery by due notice and trial, but when our Templar has secured this enactment, what has he gained? He has added an unaffiliated (suspended) Templar to the list of unaffiliated Master Masons. Has he gained anything either for the Lodge or Commandery?

The system of Masonic Templarism rests upon the Lodge, and must accommodate itself, in most respects, to the supremacy thus acknowledged. A Grand Lodge in one locality may take such action in defining the relations of unaffiliated Masons to the Commandery, as may seem harsh and inequitable. Such action, we suppose, must have prevailing force in that jurisdiction; but a campaign of education is in order, as are respectful remonstrances, also, to bring about a change. It does not seem right and just to put the unaffiliated brother, holding a dimit, or one who has been dropped from the roll without a trial, on a par with expelled Masons in the matter of membership in a Commandery. We unite with Sir Knight Ruckle in affirming that nothing is gained for either Lodge or Commandery by such a course. Under Texas, Frater Ruckle quotes approvingly from correspondent Elgin of that jurisdiction, who says:

> A Grand Lodge is supreme in its own territory, and however unjust or tyrannical its laws may be, like those of the State, they can be enforced. We hope that the discussion of this subject will prove that no virtual expulsion or suspension of the sacred rights of a Mason can be enforced without the protest of the best legal lights of the country. We offer no excuse for the non-affiliate, and we have no objection to his being deprived of the privileges resulting from *Lodge* membership, but we do object to any Mason being suspended or expelled from all the rights of a Mason without a hearing.

Reviewing Massachusetts and Rhode Island, liberal extracts are taken from the address of Grand Commander Lawrence, delivered at the annual Grand Conclave of 1895. His views on the subject of life membership, as therein set forth, are approved.

Frater Ruckle quotes from our report of 1895, and also from that part of the report furnished by our associate, Sir Knight Finch. As regards one matter referred to—the authenticity of the Massachusetts Ritual placed in the hands of Bro. Carson—a statement and suggestion are made, as follows:

> Frater Finch reviews Ohio, and quotes Carson's intimation that our Massachusetts frater did not know what the official Templar Ritual was, and in rejoinder says that the St. Louis Ritual, fathered by Bro. Carson, was not the old Massachusetts Ritual which it was claimed to be, but that the verbal and other changes were so great as to make it a new production. This statement as made is certainly true; it is equally true that this ritual was well authenticated to Frater Carson, and that he is not responsible for the changes which Frater Finch sees. If there is a mistake as to what the old Massachusetts Ritual was, the error would seem to us to be that of a Massachusetts frater, and not of Carson. Was the statement made by Grand Master Dean on the authenticity of the ritual only a fairy story?

There is no call at this late day to fix responsibility; but of the good faith of both Bro. Carson and Bro. Dean there can be no question. There was a mistake somewhere, for the ritual adopted at St. Louis was not the "old Massachusetts Ritual."

Grand Commander, Sir Winfield T. Durbin, Anderson; Grand Recorder, Sir Wm. H. Smythe, Indianapolis; Correspondent Sir N. R. Ruckle, Indianapolis. R.

IOWA, 1896.

The Iowa Sir Knights are fortunate in the ownership of beautiful grounds and convenient buildings, at Templar Park, on the borders of an attractive Lake, and here the Grand Commandery meets in mid-summer and devotes four days to work and refreshment. The occasion is made a sort of picnic and fellowship meeting, and its social features are recognized and provided for, no less than the business purposes of the gathering.

The Grand Commandery convened on the first day of the festal week, Tuesday, July 14, 1896, all the Grand Officers being present, and thirty-two of the fifty-six chartered Commanderies being represented, together with Past Grand Officers and Past Commanders entitled to seats in the Grand Commandery.

Sir Thomas B. Lacey, Grand Commander, in his address presents a glowing account of the Triennial at Boston, and of the part which Iowa bore in the proceedings on that memorable occasion. He says:

> The attendance was undoubtedly larger than at any previous Triennial; at any rate, it was sufficiently large to satisfy the most skeptical. The attendance from our own jurisdiction was large; even larger than was at first anticipated. Those making the journey had a very enjoyable trip *en route* to Boston, without even the semblance of an accident or other cause to mar their pleasure.

He refers to the reception of visitors in Boston, the arrangements made for their comfort and entertainment, as follows:

> While in Boston there was no opportunity or cause for complaint; the accommodations provided for all visitors to the city were complete and sufficient; the preparations for the entertainment of visiting Sir Knights and those accompanying were so extensive as to elicit the higest compliments.

A little farther along he refers to the parade as being large and imposing—an attractive object-lesson of the power and benign purpose of Templary.

In his address, referring to "Templar Days" and "Christmas Observances," he takes occasion to commend the growing practice to recognize these occasions, believing that such a recognition accords with the purposes of the Templar Order.

Reports presented by the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer, respectively, show a healthy condition of the Order both as regards members and finances. The net increase of membership for the year is announced as 170. The 56 chartered Commanderies in Iowa have a total membership, as returned July 1, 1896, of 4,343.

The volume of Proceedings is attractive in form and appearance, and its outward look is in keeping with its contents so well arranged and fully indexed by Grand Recorder Wingate. A portrait of Grand Commander Tracey forms the frontispiece and a fine view of Templar Park appears on an inserted leaf.

Sir J. C. W. Coxe, correspondent, in his review of the Proceedings of thirty-six Templar Bodies, presents many excellent thoughts felicitously expressed. He believes the Templar column to be moving forward—"marching up the steeps of time toward the better to-morrow"—and having this faith he writes in the way of earnest incitement and hopefulness. If Sir Knights would but believe strongly in the Templar Order, in its grand principles, in its ministry of usefulness, then would they be moved to render a better service in its behalf. It is because we fail to appreciate the glory and the mission of our illustrious Order that we sometimes become neglectful of the demands it lays upon its members.

Under "Grand Encampment" Frater Coxe expresses his regret, in which we all share, that so little actual work was done. He approves the legislation which was accomplished, and notes with favor its declaration of the following fundamental principle:

> Membership in a Lodge, Chapter, or Commandery is a privilege incident to the possession of the degrees or orders, as the case may be, and *no person can be deprived of them without some form of trial*, after notice and hearing, and by the judgment of such tribunal as the local law provides.

The words in italics express a proposition which must not be ignored. There is a principle of equity involved—a principle of Masonic and Templar right—which is of paramount importance, and it is gratifying to notice that the judgment of the Grand Encampment in this matter meets with general favor.

Correspondent Coxe makes kindly reference to "the stately volume of 426 pages," constituting the printed Proceedings of Massachusetts and Rhode Island for 1895, and calls special attention to the report of the Triennial Committee, which requires 210 pages of the volume. He says:

> To read the report of the Triennial Committee is again to live over that eventful and stirring week, and to join the unsurpassed pageant which made the Triennial week one long gala day. But who can adequately summarize this record and do justice to the enterprise and devotion which made the occasion a success, and the memorial volume a splendid phonograph and photograph thereof? We confess our inability; we can but regret that every frater who was not present has not a copy of the report as a souvenir, and that every frater who was present has not the opportunity to learn, through second sight, somewhat of the magnitude and splendor of the Twenty-sixth Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment.

In his "Conclusion" Frater Coxe touches upon the difficulty of living up to one's ideals, and the consequent danger of being content to remain on a low plane, making no effort to "rise higher." How true this is! We have all felt oppressed by realizing our failure to get forward and lay hold of the best results of thought and endeavor; but it is something to have the noble purpose, for a reward goes with all earnest striving, even when there is disappointment that so little seems to be accomplished. It is the part of wisdom, therefore, as our brother says, "to work with fidelity and to wait with patience," believing that some result of blessing must attend every good word and work.

Grand Commander, Sir Thomas R. Ercanbrack, Anamosa; Grand Recorder, Sir Alfred Wingate, Des Moines; Correspondent, Sir J. C. W. Coxe, D. D., Washington. R.

KANSAS, 1896.

A finely engraved portrait of Sir Gilbert E. Torrington, Grand Commander, 1895-6, forms the frontispiece of the Proceedings, a volume of some two hundred pages, containing a record of the transactions of Grand Commandery at its twenty-seventh annual conclave held at Lawrence, May 12, 1896, together with reports, statistical tables, and other papers which are of interest to the reader.

Thirty-seven of the forty-two Subordinate Commanderies in the jurisdiction were represented. All the Grand Officers were present, also seven Past Grand Officers, and forty-eight Past Commanders. Considerable form attends the opening of the Grand Commandery, the Grand Officers being escorted to the place of meeting and received with due honors in the Asylum. This is an orderly course of procedure calculated to give dignity to the proceedings.

The address of Grand Commander Torrington has merit in many respects. He indicates his exalted appreciation of the Templar Order in the following true words:

> As Knights Templar, we represent an institution which has been a source of hope and comfort to millions in the days gone, which has inspired men with higher purposes and given them victory over selfishness and sin, and thus to-day is one of the brightest object-lessons before the world to teach the exalted principles of fraternity, courtesy, and benevolence.

He argues forcibly against creating new Commanderies except where the need is urgent, and there is good reason to believe that the desired organizations, if established, will be well sustained without doing injury to any existing Commandery. Referring to petitions for new Commanderies at Columbus and Galena, he says:

> In this connection, permit me to say that, in my judgment, we have already as many Commanderies in that immediate section of the state as the interests of the Order will demand for many years to come, and I would caution those already established to bear in mind that in giving consent to the organization of new ones they deprive themselves of a portion of their own jurisdiction, which may eventually prove detrimental to their prosperity.

His words do not seem to have had prevailing influence with the members of the Grand Commandery, however, for we notice that a dispensation was voted to twenty Sir Knights at Galena to organize a new Commandery, and charters were granted likewise for new Commanderies at Junction City and at Eureka respectively.

Grand Commander Torrington approves the display of the national colors in Templar Asylums. On this subject he reports as follows:

> The flags ordered by resolution to be purchased by this Grand Commandery have been received, and are displayed at this conclave for the admiration and approval of the Sir Knights. A number of the Subordinate Commanderies of the state have supplied themselves with flags, and it is one of the pleasant results of the resolution, that the national colors will awaken patriotic sentiment in the solemn ceremonies of our work, to coalesce with those of devotion to our holy Order.

Referring to the continued persecutions of the Christians in Turkey, he expresses his righteous indignation, on this wise:

> There comes up to us a long, despairing cry from the persecuted Christians of Armenia, whose situation is appalling in this advanced age of Christian civilization. As of old, the cruel Turk is waging a war of extermination against the followers of the Cross, and the outrages perpetrated are almost beyond our comprehension, while Christian nations stand by and simply protest, without a single stroke to stop this shame and disgrace to the age. Let the united voices of our 100,000 chivalric Knights reach the halls of legislation and the executive of this nation, to

> cause this blot on humanity to cease at whatever cost, and if necessary the swords of half a million of new crusaders will leap from their scabbards to assist the work.

We believe in the expediency of presenting such appeals, and in seeking to arouse a wholesome public sentiment throughout Christendom, which sooner or later will make itself felt in legislation and in the exercise of force, if necessary, so that these dreadful barbarities may be brought to an end.

Sir A. M. Callahan, Grand Recorder, also fills the office of correspondent, doing excellent work in both departments. In his report now in hand he reviews forty jurisdictions in a very concise and instructive manner. He is pleased with our Proceedings of 1895, and finds the volume suggestive of the Triennial occasion and Boston hospitality. He says:

> Proceedings received April 6, 1896. It was a long time to wait for them, but when we opened that volume we were amazed at its magnitude and beauty. Here, in addition to a most interesting volume of the transactions of that great body of valiant Templars, are large numbers of photographs—in fact the whole Triennial procession of Knights on their march in that grand parade, August 27, 1895, and many, many scenes of historic places. For the hour we live over again that pleasant reunion, and remember most vividly of all things the open-hearted people of Boston. That royal welcome from everybody! Yes, everybody; rich and poor alike welcomed the hosts of Knights Templar in such a manner as they never experienced before. Our heart goes out to dear old Boston and her people as we live over these pleasant scenes.

Evidently he found many things to his liking in the Triennial arrangements, for he is enthusiastic in his utterances respecting the efforts made by the committee for the comfort and pleasure of visitors. He expresses dissatisfaction, however, with the doings of the Grand Encampment, or rather with the failure of that Body to deal with important questions and to legislate in such a way as to meet existing needs. He thinks the Grand Encampment should meet a week earlier or later than the date of the Triennial Parade, and devote itself to business. We endorse the suggestion. Some arrangement should be made providing for more time so that matters of importance need not go over conclave after conclave without being passed upon. The trouble at Boston was not that the members of Grand Encampment failed to apply themselves to the work in hand; for the most part they attended all the sessions and gave due heed to the proceedings, but the time was insufficient. The subjects were weighty and elicited different opinions, so that in the nature of things many hours were required for debates. Perhaps as much was done as could reasonably be expected under the limitations, but we think more time should be allotted to the legislative sessions of the Grand Encampment and we believe there would be a gain if the meeting of Grand Encampment preceded or went beyond the vast gathering of the Templar hosts which is to be expected on every Triennial occasion.

Sir W. C. Holmes, Grand Commander, Parsons; Sir A. M. Callahan, Grand Recorder and Correspondent, Topeka.

R.

KENTUCKY, 1896.

The forty-ninth annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery was held in the Court House, at Richmond, May 27 and 28, 1896. On the first day of meeting there was a parade, the Grand Commandery having for its escort several subordinate Commanderies, Cadets from Central University, and the "Little Commandery" from the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home of Kentucky. Thus escorted, the officers and members of the Grand Body proceeded to the chapel of Central University, where, after addresses of welcome and response, an appropriate sermon was preached by Sir Knight Rev. Thomas N. Dudley. The publication of the addresses and sermon was called for by vote of the Grand Commandery, but only the address of welcome by Sir Knight Curtis F. Burnam appears in the proceedings. At the conclusion of the religious services the lines were reformed and the Grand Commandery was escorted to the Court House, where the Grand Conclave was opened in ample form. All the Grand Officers were present, twelve Past Grand Officers, sixty-five Past Commanders, and the representatives of twenty-two subordinate Commanderies.

Sir R. H. Thompson, Grand Commander, delivered an address, containing not only a presentation of his official acts, but also several important recommendations. He reports having granted numerous dispensations to ballot on petitions, without waiting the required time. Evidently he exercised his authority in so doing with reluctance. He says:

> It will be observed from the above list of dispensations asked for that the number of requests of this kind seems to be increasing every year, and I was sorely tempted upon various occasions to absolutely refuse dispensation to ballot out of time, as the law holding over the petition for thirty days is certainly a good one, and should be observed, except upon special occasions; and I would respectfully recommend to the Commanderies not to ask for dispensation, unless for very urgent reasons.

Special and urgent reasons—something more than the convenience of candidates or Commanderies—ought to be shown to justify the action of a Grand Commander in setting aside the provisions of a constitutional provision.

He acknowledges personal attention received during his stay in Boston on the occasion of the Triennial in 1895, and heartily commends the Templar manifestation as "superb and complete in all its details." The part that Kentucky took in the manifestation is thus described:

> Three Commanderies from this State—Louisville No. 1, Maysville No. 10, and DeMolay No. 12—headed by the Grand Standard of the State, accompanied by the Little Commandery from the Home, were greeted from one end of the line to the other in the most enthusiastic manner. The appearance of the boys of the Little Commandery was splendid, and the attention shown to them, not only during the parade, but during the entire time of their stay in Boston, was of the most cordial and marked character; and I hope their presence there will be productive of much good to the Order, as it seemed to stimulate all of the other Grand Bodies to desire to emulate our example, and establish an institution similar to ours, for the benefit of the Craft in their various States.

Among his decisions reported was the following, which relates to a matter that seems to be "difficult of understanding" in several jurisdictions. We copy herewith the question and answer:

> If a Companion petitions for the Orders of Knighthood, is elected, but before receiving the Order of Red Cross objection is made to his proceeding, can he after a lapse of a year (?) petition another Commandery?
>
> "The Companion who has been elected to receive the Orders of Knighthood, but to whom objection has been made before receiving the Order of the Red Cross, stands in the same position as though he had been rejected by ballot." "See Title 43, Section 2, of the Code of the Grand Encampment of the United States." "A rejected candidate cannot apply to another Commandery, without the consent by unanimous vote of the one by which he was rejected." "See Title 34, Section 5, of the same authority." The petition of one who has been rejected cannot be renewed until the expiration of at least six months after such rejection; and it may then be received by the Commandery in whose jurisdiction the petitioner then resides, provided the Commandery by which he was rejected consents to waive its jurisdiction. "See Title 45, Section 18 and 19, same authority."

It should be remembered that in the Order of Knights Templar an *objection* has the same force as a rejection by ballot; and that a waiver of jurisdiction requires a secret ballot and a unanimous vote. The equity of the law in this last-named limitation is open to question; but while it stands it must be obeyed.

The veteran Correspondent, Sir Charles R. Woodruff, furnishes a report on Correspondence of one hundred and thirty-two pages, in which the proceedings of forty-six Grand Bodies are reviewed with discriminating judgment. The proceedings of Massachusetts and Rhode Island for 1895 elicit words of praise, especially that part of the volume which contains the illustrated report of the Triennial Committee.

Frater Woodruff, in concluding his report, refers to the Triennial gathering in Boston, and the Grand Encampment Conclave held in that city in 1895 in terms of mingled approval and disapproval. The occasion was a notable one and the arrangements excellent, *but* the Grand Encampment did not come up to the full measure of its duty. His commendation and criticism are in the words following:

> The twenty.sixth Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of the United States, at which a mighty host of the Templar Knights displayed an unexcelled grandeur and enjoyed an enchanting and surpassing hospitality, was a most jubilant occasion for the Kentucky *Fratres*, in the in-

> vestment of one of the most beloved of their number with the insignia of Grand Master of American Templars.
>
> The New England Knights proved themselves Past Masters in the art of entertainment and courtesy, maintaining in Boston and elsewhere their ancient renown for a generous observance of the rites of hospitality.
>
> The business transactions at this Triennial Conclave was disappointingly unimportant, and the paucity of the results of the great occasion is not at all complimentary to the numbers there present, from whom much better things were demanded and expected in the practice of diligence, as well as in the discharge of duty. Let us hope that the Pittsburg Trinnial will greatly improve in these essential particulars.

There was not time enough available for the important work laid out. There were too many outside matters claiming attention of members. The conditions were not favorable to careful legislation; yet many members were attentive to the business, being present at each and every session, and ready to prolong the session as the needs demanded.

Grand Commander, Sir R. H. Thompson, Louisville; Grand Recorder, Sir L. D. Croninger, Covington; Correspondent, Sir C. R. Woodruff, Louisville. R.

LOUISIANA, 1896.

Louisiana is one of the small jurisdictions, and the Proceedings of its thirty-third annual Grand Conclave, held at New Orleans, February 14, 1896, occupy less than fifty pages; but the pamphlet is one of more than ordinary interest.

Sir Chas. F. Buck, Grand Commander, was detained by duties in Congress, but sent an address which was read by the Grand Recorder. In his address he deals somewhat at length with events pertaining to the Triennial in Boston, and in well chosen words points out the significance of the notable occasion. We copy, herewith, a few of his expressions;

> The "Grand Encampment" in Boston, accompanied by its "triennial parades" and gathering of the Sir Knights, was an event that is bound to mark a special epoch in Knight Templarism. There may have been as great or greater numbers assembled at other times; and, so far as the Sir Knights are concerned, there no doubt has always been the same fraternal greeting, the same interchange of sentiment and courtesy, the same practical manifestation of the great bond of brotherhood.

> But I doubt if ever in the history of the country any private organization aroused to the same degree the sense of patriotism; the consciousness of national power; the expression of a great citizenship militant in the cause of the moral and spiritual elevation of themselves and their fellow men. The commonwealth of Boston surpassed all records. Every stone seemed vibrant with the echoes of welcome in which the traditions of a great historic past mingled with the protestations of yet greater and more glorious things in the future. The magic of the Master's promise, "peace, good will toward men," seemed to have lifted the hearts of thousands into a communion of love. Mankind, at such moments, shows at its best—clothed in the raiment of love and radiant with the manifestation of the "divinity that stirs within."
>
> Such an occasion affords an experience that no man should miss, if it comes his way. Let us all remember this, for the "next time." It comes apace; the notes of preparation are already sounding: let us be ready.
>
> Louisiana, few in number and simple in display, stood with the best of them, in the sentiments which they inspired. The union of "Dixie" and "Yankee Doodle" was made a palpable fact, and the patriotism that spoke from the rocks of Plymouth was re-echoed from the hearts of Chalmette.

There is a beautiful suggestiveness in the words here quoted which ought to be heeded. Thus are we reminded of the benign purposes of the Templar institution, and of the uplifting influences which belong to its teachings and its assemblies. The grand meeting of Templars in Boston was not all for display—it did not begin and end with itself—but it emphasized great principles which are fundamental to the discharge of the duties of related life, and it set in motion a current of impulses which we may well believe will tend to a wider and better expression of the virtues which most adorn our humanity.

The following timely resolutions were adopted:

> *Resolved*, That the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the state of Louisiana hereby extends its sincere sympathy to the suffering and persecuted Christians of Armenia.
>
> *Resolved*, That this Grand Commandery requests the Louisiana representatives in Congress to favor such aid as may be possible by the United States to the Armenians.
>
> *Resolved*, That this Grand Commandery views with regret and sorrow the indifference of the civilized powers, and more particularly that of our own country, to the horrors of the Armenian massacre.

> *Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted immediately to the Louisiana members of Congress, to the President of the United States, and also, without delay, to the R.·. E.·. Grand Master of Templars of the United States.

Some thirty pages are devoted to a report on Correspondence prepared by Sir J. Q. A. Fellows, who treats a number of important topics with his accustomed ability and good sense. On the subject of "non-affiliation" he notes a distinction which is too often overlooked. He says:

> But there are what we know as the rights and privileges of Freemasonry which are distinct and separate from lodge rights and privileges, and wholly independent of them. They are vastly in excess of the latter, and one possessed of these, though not entitled to Lodge privileges, may yet be eligible to Commandery membership *as* Knights Templar, being Masons. We may not hold Masonic communication with an expelled Mason, or one suspended from the rights and privileges of a Mason, and yet may hold such communication with one not entitled to the benefits and privileges of the Lodge or Chapter.

He defends Bro. Carson in matters pertaining to the ritual controversy. He says:

> We back every word he says about the ritual. * * * We were confined to the duty of putting the *Massachusetts* ritual into suitable dramatic form, and it was adopted at St. Louis as the ritual of the Grand Encampment, and the Denver ritual is only an amended or revised ritual.

As to whether or not the ritual adopted at Denver is to be considered as an amendment of the one adopted at St. Louis, is a matter of slight importance; but it is important in the making of history that a denial should promptly be made of every assertion that the Massachusetts ritual was embodied and set forth in the St. Louis ritual. We make no imputations of want of good faith, we charge nothing of wrong doing, but we do insist upon the fact that the St. Louis ritual differs widely from what was the approved ritual of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, at the time. The Denver ritual—a *revision* of the former ritual—restores some things and adds others, but on the whole gives satisfaction so far as relates to the Order of the Temple.

There are many things in the report of our esteemed friend which we would gladly notice, but want of time and space forbid.

Grand Commander, Sir M. L. Scovell, Shreveport; Grand Recorder, Sir Richard Lambert, New Orleans; Correspondent, Sir J. Q. A. Fellows, New Orleans. R.

MAINE, 1896.

An engraved portrait of Sir Frederick S. Walls, Grand Commander for the year 1895–6, forms the frontispiece of the carefully arranged and well printed volume of Proceedings whose pages we have turned with much of satisfaction as showing the progress and prosperity of the Templar Order in the jurisdiction where first we came to have actual knowledge of its principles and blessings.

The Grand Commandery met at Masonic Hall, Portland, May 7, 1896, all the Grand Officers excepting one (the Senior Grand Warden, Sir W. A. Allen, who died Nov. 25, 1895), being present, together with sixteen Past Grand Officers, forty-six Past Commanders, and representatives from seventeen of the nineteen chartered Commanderies in the State.

Grand Commander Walls delivered an address setting forth his official actions, and presenting several important papers relating thereto. Dunlap Commandery of Bath made complaint that a rejected applicant for the Orders had been received into Natick Commandery, Mass., no waiver of jurisdiction having been obtained. The complaint was aggravated by the fact that the candidate thus admitted into the Order is still a resident of Bath. After correspondence between Grand Commander Walls and Grand Commander Richards of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the error on the part of Natick Commandery was made clear, and an apology proffered by that Body to Dunlap Commandery which referred the whole subject to the Grand Commandery. There it passed under the scrutiny of the Committee on Jurisprudence, Sir Knight Josiah H. Drummond, chairman, who reported upon the same as follows:

IN GRAND COMMANDERY OF MAINE, May 7, 1896.

The Committee on Grievances and Jurisprudence, to which was referred so much of the address of the R. E. Grand Commander, as relstes to the case of Henry M. Hartleb, and the papers submitted therewith, have considered the matter and ask leave to report:

It appears that Henry M. Hartleb, a Royal Arch Mason in good standing and a resident of Bath, applied to be made a Knight Templar in Dunlap Commandery and was rejected: he repeated the application several times and was rejected each time, the last in June, 1895.

Afterwards he went to Natick, where he had formerly resided, and while there, applied to, was accepted by, and received the Orders in Natick Commandery.

Of course this was in direct violation of the express law of the Grand Encampment.

The matter was brought to the notice of Natick Commandery, which, upon learning the facts, at once tendered to Dunlap Commandery the most ample apology, admitting that the admission of the candidate was due to gross carelessness on its part and declaring that it will not recognize said Hartleb as a Knight Templar.

The apology is entirely satisfactory to Dunlap Commandery, and has been accepted by it in the same spirit in which the apology was made.

But your committee are of the opinion that the matter cannot properly rest here.

We recommend that all Knightly recognition of, and intercourse with, said Henry M. Hartleb be forbidden in this jurisdiction, until upon his application to Dunlap Commandery for the purpose, that commandery, after said application has been referred to a Committee of Inquiry and shall have laid over from one stated conclave to another, shall, by unanimous vote taken by the secret ballot, request the R. E. Grand Commander for the time being, to heal said Hartleb, and the R. E. Grand Commander shall have caused him to be healed, and the usual notice thereof given.

Courteously submitted,

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND,
EDWARD P. BURNHAM,
ELISHA H. LYFORD,
Committee.

The report was received and its recommendations adopted.

Sir Stephen Berry, Grand Recorder, made report of his official acts and presented valuable statistical exhibits. He also presented the report of the Committee on Correspondence, partly in print, which was accepted with permission to add to the paper. He submitted the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Commandery of Maine extends a welcoming hand to the four new sisters who have joined our circle within the year, the stately maid from the District of Columbia, fair Florida from the land of flowers, and the two wildwood maidens from Indian Territory and Oklahoma; and with her hand she brings tender greetings and loving wishes for a bright and glorious career to each of them.

Could any salutation be made or greeting given in more graceful words? Frater Berry has mastered the art of felicitous expression.

We find many timely and wholesome expressions of thought in his report. Under Georgia he declares himself in respect to the matter of affiliation, and reaches a conclusion to which we heartily subscribe. He says:

Judging from the effect of mild legislation against non-affiliation, we think the law is injudicious. In Maine the proportion of non-affiliates is so small as not to attract notice, and although they cannot claim Lodge privileges they are generally welcomed. Yet, we notice, they generally keep away. One class of non-affiliates is composed of those who find no interest in Masonry. Severe legislation against them is ineffective, because they have already renounced it. But, frequently, under mild legislation which always beckons to them, they return to their allegiance and become valuable members. Another class drop out from some fancied grievance. Severe legislation only embitters them, while mildness often brings them back in time. A third class find the burden heavy at some time, but are glad to return when circumstances are better. A few may dimit from selfishness, but this class is too small to be regarded. To prove that it is so, we call attention to the fact that one suspended from *membership* for non-payment of dues may remain out for ten or twenty years, and then re-instate himself by paying the amount due when suspended, (perhaps only for two years), saving the dues for all the intervening time, and thus re-instating himself when he feels age or ill health coming on. Yet we have never seen a case where this seemed to have been taken advantage of excepting where some acute person had advanced the money to re-instate a hopeless invalid for the purpose of shifting the burden of his support back upon the neglected Lodge.

The lesson is that men will not submit to be bullied. Let it be understood that if a Mason wishes to go out he can go freely. If he elects to support a part and not the whole, allow him to do so. Let him understand that, while he cannot claim the privileges he has renounced, he is still near and dear, and he will still be a moral support, and a distinct advantage to the fraternity.

Under Massachusetts and Rhode Island Frater Berry designates the Proceedings for the Triennial year as "portly and imposing," and specially commends the report of the Triennial Committee therein contained. We quote his words on that point and his recondite suggestion pertaining to cremation, etc:

> The report of the Triennial Committee fills the next 206 pages, and it will be an admirable guide for other committees who undertake the task. The illustration of the lapel button, "a pot of beans with the cross of Salem between B and 95," suggests a question. If one of these is dug up 6,000 years hence, what will its significance be considered by the philosophers of that day? And may not the philosophers of our day ascribe too much meaning to the emblems of 6,000 years agone, which they are now studying? The Egyptians were a jovial and humorous people, and were certainly as advanced in symbolism as we, and the Chaldeans not widely different from them. The meaning of the cross will be clear, even if the significance of the three bars is forgotten, and will not the bean pot be found to be a cinerary urn? Did Boston cremate in 1900? How striking this association of faith with mortality! Ninety-five would be the age of the mortal whose ashes these are, and the B will puzzle them. Never a suggestion of a bean pot will cross their minds, though doubtless it will have been one of the most familiar utensils from the days of Mena to A. D. 8,000, and yet its meaning to us is that great lesson that Boston men eat baked beans, which mostly they don't.

He thinks the scallop-shell badge of the Triennial Committee very artistic. He makes kindly mention of our report and only takes issue with the judgment of the committee in a single point, viz.: as to what constitutes Masonic residence. Bro. Finch, under North Carolina, referred to the ruling of Grand Commander Cobb of that jurisdiction in the following case:

> A Royal Arch Mason petitions the Commandery for the degrees. The Secretary of his Chapter says he is in good standing and avouches for him. He shows his receipt for dues to date. He represents the Encyclopædia Brittanica and is located, for a few months, at different places. It is about twelve years since he resided where his Chapter is located. Says he has no home or permanent residence—moves about as ordered. He has been in this jurisdiction about two months. In reply to a telegram asking for a waiver of jurisdiction the E. C. of the Commandery where his Chapter is located says, "We have no jurisdiction." Can we, under the circumstances, entertain and act upon his petition?
>
> To which I replied:
>
> In my opinion, you have no jurisdiction. From the statements contained, he is a sojourner.
>
> If he has no local habitation—no official residence—he can obtain relief only in the selection of such; which, though he itinerate, would become his legal home at the expiration of six months.

Bro. Finch in commenting upon this decision suggested that the Companion's Masonic residence was where his Chapter was located, notwithstanding the fact that his abode was elsewhere—that he was moving about with no fixed dwelling place.

Bro. Berry cannot concur in the opinion thus expressed. He says:

> As the candidate had been away for twelve years from the place where his chapter was situated, it is clear that the commandery there was correct in saying that it had no jurisdiction. At first sight, it seems as if some commandery ought to have jurisdiction, but that does not follow. A man becomes a non-resident as soon as he quits one place, and does not become eligible until six months after he takes up residence in the new locality. A general law might continue the old jurisdiction until a new one was acquired, but no such law exists at present.

Is there not a difference between "Masonic residence" and that actual residence acquired by having a domicile or abiding place in town or city which entitles one to vote, etc? In equity it would seem that Masonic residence ought to continue with Lodge and Chapter where membership is maintained. In the Georgia case this relation is quite overlooked, while the proposition is affirmed that the right course of procedure would be for the traveling brother to select a residence, such a choice determining legal residence. The recommendation does not seem altogether to fit the case.

Grand Commander, Sir Albro E. Chase, Portland; Grand Recorder and Chairman of Committee of Correspondence, Sir Stephen Berry, Portland.

R.

MARYLAND, 1895.

Sir Wm. Henry Martin, Grand Commander, presided at the Twenty-fifth Annual Conclave, held at Baltimore, November 26, 1895, and his pleasant face forms the frontispiece of the attractive volume of proceedings, which includes the transactions of a special Conclave held April 15, 1895, as well as those of the annual.

Nine of the ten subordinate Commanderies in the jurisdiction were represented at the Annual Conclave. Fourteen Past Grand Commanders were present.

The Grand Commander reports that two Commanderies had been organized in Maryland during his term of office, and that the general condition of the Order shows harmony and prosperity. He announces the "universal approval" of the Denver ritual by Maryland Sir Knights, and only complains that in its working the conferring of the Order of Malta is commonly separated from that of the Temple. On this point he says: "The Order of Knight Templar includes the ceremony of Knight of Malta, and they should be conferred at one and the same time."

Our thought is otherwise. The Knight of Malta ceremony may be invested with a certain amount of interest, and it has value as inculcating a devout attitude of mind in respect to the eternal verities; but it does not compare either in interest or instruction with the ceremony which attends the proper conferring of the Order of the Temple. When the Templar ritual is correctly applied and illustrated the candidate has been taken to a height of moral grandeur and a heavenly vision has been unfolded before him. The lessons and scenes of the Templar ceremony are quite sufficient for one evening. Their force of impressiveness would be weakened by presenting the new teaching of the Knight of Malta ritual. A separation between the conferring of the two Orders seems desirable, and we cannot see why such a separation would in any way make the ceremony of conferring the Order of Malta less impressive or important.

The Grand Commander reports having granted numerous petitions to ballot on petitions in less than the constitutional period, and justifies such action "on account of the increased activity in the several Commanderies incident to a Triennial year."

He expresses satisfaction with the attendance and bearing of the Templars of Maryland at the Triennial in Boston. He says:

> The parade of Tuesday, August 27th, 1895, will long be remembered by all who witnessed it; and it is with pride I say it. None of the immense throng of Templars who participated in this the grandest of escorts that have ever been tendered the Grand Encampment, were more enthusiastically received or more highly complimented than the Templars of Maryland; and well they deserve it, for no more soldierly body of men were in line than our 300 who kept step to the music of "Maryland, My Maryland." The day was warm and the route long, but none faltered or complained, each Sir Knight appearing as if he, and he alone, were pledged to reflect honor upon his Commandery, upon our city, and upon our State.

The marching of the Maryland Sir Knights was well nigh perfect and elicited merited recognition all along the line.

Charters were voted to two new Commanderies, viz., Thomas J. Shryock Commandery, No. 11, located at Salisbury, and St. Elmo Commandery, No. 12, at Hyattsville.

The report on Correspondence by Sir Ferdinand J. Gorgas, who has been in this line of work for nearly a score of years, contains a well-selected summary of the important events which have gone into the history of the various Grand Commanderies during the year covered by his review. He gives but little space to comments and avoids discussion; but he has the faculty of selecting choice items and presenting them in such a manner as to secure attention, and his report has special value for this reason. Our home jurisdiction receives courteous notice from Frater Gorgas, who occupies several pages with a concise setting forth of the doings at the semi-annual and annual Conclaves of 1894.

Grand Commander, Sir Wm. H. Clark, Baltimore; Grand Recorder, Sir John H. Miller, Baltimore; Correspondent, Sir F. J. S. Gorgas, M. D., Baltimore.

R.

MICHIGAN, 1896.

Michigan sends out a substantial and ornamental volume for the present year. The style is attractive, and the contents of the proceedings are in keeping with the attractive form in which they are presented. A portrait of the Grand Commander, Sir Wm. E. Jewett, embellishes the proceedings.

The Grand Commandery met at Grand Rapids, May 19, 1896. All the Grand Officers, with a single exception, were in their places at the opening of the Grand Conclave, and there were also present seventeen Past Grand Officers, fifty-six Past Commanders, and the representatives of forty-four subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander delivered an excellent address—timely and practical—covering the important acts of his administration.

In response to the question, "What is the standing in the Commandery of a voluntarily un-affiliated Master Mason?" he rendered the following decision:

> Inasmuch as an edict of the Grand Chapter (Proceedings 1872, pp. 1,510) makes suspension in that body obligatory, of a voluntarily unaffiliated Master Mason who remains such for the space of twelve months, suspension in the Commandery must necessarily follow suspension in the Chapter.

Under the law as recognized in Michigan we suppose Grand Commander Jewett had no choice in making this decision, albeit the Grand Encampment rule as declared at Boston is not in accord with such a judgment. The Grand Commandery approved the decision. In the following case the general law seems to be correctly interpreted and applied:

> A Sir Knight is a member of a Commandery, but resides in another city where a new Commandery is desired, is a petitioner for the same U. D. and a charter member, when charter is granted by the Grand Commandery. The Recorder of the new Commandery failed to certify to the old Commandery this fact, as provided for in Title XXXVIII, Section 4, Code of Statutes. The old Commandery claimed dues from him from the fact of this absence of notification, and that they had paid Grand Commandery dues on him, supposing him to have been a member.

The Grand Commander declared his judgment as follows:

> The action of the Grand Commandery in granting a charter, makes the Sir Knight a member of the new Commandery by law, his membership in the old Commandery being held in abeyance, pending the action of the Grand Commandery.
>
> He cannot be an active member of two Commanderies at the same time.
>
> The failure of the Recorder of the new Commandery to certify the fact to the old Commandery does not vitiate his membership in the former, as the action of the Grand Commandery is paramount and cannot be set aside by the negligence of any subordinate Commandery or Officer; neither should the individual suffer wrong from such negligence. The Sir Knight is not liable for dues in the old Commandery, subsequent to the issuance of the dispensation to the new Commandery, and Grand Commandery dues paid since that time should be refunded.

Several points are covered in the foregoing statement, one of them being that Sir Knights while associated in supporting a Commandery, under dispensation, are still held, nominally, to membership in the old Commandery; but so soon as the new Body is chartered, such nominal membership terminates. The fact is, a Commandery *under dispensation* has no organic life, for it only represents a union of certain Sir Knights who have been authorized to confer the Orders. They can neither acquire nor give membership, but being included as Charter members, under that Charter duly issued and accepted, they become identified with the new Commandery, and their membership ends in the old Body, which should see to it, having proper notice, that the fact is duly recorded.

We notice that several Dispensations were granted by the Grand Commander in course and out of course. In the last named class is a Dispensation issued authorizing a Commandery "to attend a Masonic Picnic at Grand Ledge, on July 30, 1895." Frater Coxe of Iowa remarks upon this exercise of the power of Grand Commandery as follows:

> What was the peculiarly "Masonic" feature of the picnic? and why did the fratres specially need a dispensation to permit their attendance? Or was the dispensation intended to cover their "toggery" rather than their person? A dispensation "to parade on Memorial day" was refused, and we think rightly; but surely Memorial day has quite as sacred a claim on loyal Knights Templars as has a "Masonic picnic!" There has been

> quite too much of tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee hair-splitting on this matter of "Masonic" occasions. We heartily wish that the next session of the Grand Encampment would make an authoritative deliverance on the subject, defining the limits of the proper application of the word "Masonic," and so relieve us from all doubt as to "Masonic" fairs, picnics, balls, horse trots, and insurance fakes.

Something more is needed besides mere legislation on the part of the Grand Encampment. A campaign of education is requisite, to the end that Masons and Knights Templars may learn to avoid undue publicity and not to seek to multiply the occasions when they can appear on dress parade. The picnic and dancing party may be made occasions of social pleasure, and members of the Order may arrange to attend such gatherings in friendly groups; but we dislike to see the word "Masonic" attached to such social and festival occasions, for it seems a little out of place and is entirely unnecessary.

Sixteen full page "Memorial Tablets" are shown in the Proceedings. These reminders are tenderly and solemnly suggestive, yet the practice does not commend itself to our thought. It is too funereal a presentation for such a volume as that in which it appears. Besides, the sameness of mortuary display weakens the effect intended. It were better, we think, to present the memorials which seem due to departed brethren, taking more or less space as each may require for the presentation of a fitting record, and thus dispense with the formal "Tablets" which in some jurisdictions must needs occupy many pages.

Sir John A. Gerow presents a report on Correspondence—the largest which has come under our notice in our present review,—but it has the distinction of quality as well as quantity. He writes in a clear and discriminating manner, as one well versed in the principles and rules of Masonic Templarism. It is only want of space that restricts our making quotations from his report and commenting on some of his statements.

Grand Commander, Sir Edward D. Wheeler, Manistee; Grand Recorder and Correspondent, Sir John A. Gerow, Detroit. R.

MISSISSIPPI, 1896.

The volume in hand, 130 pages, contains a record of the transactions of Grand Commandery at the thirty-sixth annual conclave, held at Jackson, February 12–14, 1896. The Grand Officers, with two exceptions, were in their places at the opening, and there were also present six Past Grand Officers, the representatives of eleven Commanderies, and a large number of visiting Knights.

The Grand Commandery, being "opened in ample and Knightly form," proceeded to the First Methodist church where the offices of devotion were observed and a discourse was delivered by Rev. Sir Irwin Miller. The text was Math. 16: 13-16. The preacher dealt with questions relating to the personal Christ, well maintaining the proposition of His Divine character and exalted mission.

The Grand Commander, Sir F. P. Jinkins, made report of his official acts and added several timely suggestions, among them one advocating connection with the church as a paramount duty of Templars. A committee to whom this part of the address was referred approved the suggestion and their report was adopted by the Grand Commandery. In noticing the Triennial Conclave at Boston, the Grand Commander expresses his grateful appreciation of the cordial welcome accorded visiting Sir Knights from the South. "If the people of Boston manifested any partiality to their visitors, those from the South were the favored ones."

The report on Correspondence, covering nearly one hundred pages, furnished by Sir Knight E. G. De Lap, contains a discussion of many important topics relating to the principles and movements of the Templar Order. It goes without saying that he has positive convictions and makes a forcible expression of his opinions. He maintains the supremacy of the Blue Lodge and affirms that Templar legislation must always conform to its decrees. He emphasizes his former utterances respecting Commanderies wearing uniform and carrying swords when attending church service. He again signifies his sympathy with Sir Cornelius Hedges, Grand Recorder and Correspondent of Montana, in his efforts to bring about the redemption of Palestine. We have the same feeling. We agree with Bro. De Lap in the following statement: "That Palestine is and has been so long in the hands of the infidels is a disgrace to Christendom and a blotch upon civilization." He does not hold the Grand Encampment in high esteem and thinks it made a mistake in its action respecting non-affiliated Master Masons, members of a Commandery. He says:

> The matter should have had the earnest and sensible attention of the Grand Encampment, at Boston, but it did not, as that concern very seldom indulges in the luxury of doing things practical and sensible, hence nothing was done, and the Statutes of that body are still in conflict with those of our Grand Lodge and common sense, and are likely to remain indefinitely.

We doubt whether this criticism would have been made in so severe a form had Bro. De Lap been present at the Grand Encampment conclave in Boston. Something was done, albeit the whole subject was not considered and passed upon. The subject was discussed in a very earnest and able manner, and whatever may be alleged of the "general make up" of the Body, there were present a good number of Sir Knights who are not visionaries or sentimentalists, and whose loyalty to Blue Lodge Masonry has never been questioned. These practical and sensible men were not all on one side, Bro. De Lap; they held different opinions on the questions involved pertaining to the main issue, but they had no thought of attacking Grand Lodge sovereignty, or letting go fundamental principles. At Pittsburg, with more time available, we trust such added action may be taken as seems necessary. We hope Bro. De. Lap may be at that meeting.

Grand Commander, Sir J. M. Buchanan, Meridian; Grand Recorder, Sir I. L. Power, Natchez: Correspondent, Sir E. G. De Lap, Natchez. R.

MISSOURI, 1896.

It is a strong face, that of Sir Knight Leslie Orear, Grand Commander in the year 1895-6, which presents itself in the engraved portrait, noticeable as we open the volume containing the transactions of the thirty-fifth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Missouri, held at Springfield, April 21, 1896. He is a prominent lawyer, located in Marshall, Missouri, and an influential member of the Templar Order. The volume is also embellished by a portrait of Sir Knight Thomas M. Wannall, whose thoughtful and benignant features, as shown in the artist's representation, are quite in keeping with what is known to have been his philanthropic disposition and noble life. He held the office of Grand Commander in the year 1865-6. He died July 21, 1882.

In his thoughtful and comprehensive address Grand Commander Orear expresses his judgment respecting the twenty-sixth Triennial of the Grand Encampment, held in Boston on the closing days of August, 1895.

In remarking upon the imposing parade he notes with a justifiable pride the fact that there were seven hundred swords in line carried by Missouri Sir Knights. He speaks approvingly of the display of the national colors, "borne alongside the banners of our Order," by the Missouri Commanderies.

One of the decisions reported by the Grand Commander is of interest as pertaining to the question of jurisdiction, and the right of a companion to fix a "domicile of choice," which may be other than the town or city where he actually resides. In passing upon the special case brought to the attention of the Grand Commander, he says there is a liability of mistaking the Templar law bearing upon the question. The law requires that every petition for the Orders must be presented to the Commandery nearest the residence of the petitioner, and it also declares that it is unlawful for a Commandery to confer the Orders upon a Companion residing outside its jurisdiction, without having obtained a waiver of jurisdiction from the Commandery, to which, under the Templar law, the Companion should apply for the Orders. Having stated the law he calls attention to certain distinctions between domicile and residence, viz.:

> The term residence has a more restricted meaning than domicile, and they are not convertible terms; there is a difference between a residence

> and a domicile, which, however, may not be capable of such a definition as would escape criticism. A person may have his domicile in one place and his residence in another. He may, however, have only one domicile which may be changed by some act showing a change of home, coupled with an expression not to return to his original domicile, and an intention to make his new abode his domicile of choice. He cannot lose his domicile in a certain place by a mere change of residence, without an expressed intention to do so; the intention of the individual is one of the essential elements to a change of domicile which must in all cases be coupled with residence to make the change of domicile complete. The physical act of staying in a place must be accompanied with a mental determination of making a home in the place where the party abides.

He decides that under Templar law *residence* involves personal presence, and cannot be given so elastic a meaning as was claimed for it by one of the parties in the case submitted. Templar jurisdiction was determined by actual, legal residence. In this case it was in Horton, Kansas, and not at St. Joseph, Mo., where the Commandery under a mistaken view of the law had conferred the Orders. The decision went to the Committee on Jurisprudence, which submitted a majority report sustaining the Grand Commander's views, and a minority report dissenting therefrom. After an interesting discussion the majority report was adopted.

The report on Correspondence by Sir Knight Wm. H. Mayo begins with an appropriate reference to his having been elected to fill the important office of Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

Sir Knight Mayo declares that the Proceedings of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, for 1895, a volume of over 500 pages, have much of value—indeed, he is kind enough to say that "every page is interesting and instructive, as well as historic." He praises the arrangement of affairs at the Triennial gathering in Boston, as being "business-like, systematic and courteous," and everyway creditable to our home jurisdiction and to the Templar Order.

Grand Commander, Sir Ira V. McMillan, Maryville; Grand Recorder and Correspondent, Sir Wm. H. Mayo, St. Louis.

R.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1895.

The annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of New Hampshire was held in the Asylum of Mount Horeb Commandery, in the City of Concord, on Tuesday, September 24, 1895, at 3 o'clock P. M. Of the ten Commanderies in this jurisdiction eight were represented by twenty Sir Knights, together with eight visitors from Mount Horeb and St. Paul Commanderies.

The address of the R. E. Grand Commander Sir Knight Daniel C. Roberts, is a well written production and contains much that would be of interest to the Craft in all our jurisdictions. After alluding to the work of the Order in which its high ideals are set before the candidate, he rehearses the duty of each individual Sir Knight to keep inviolate the sacred trust committed to his care. In speaking of the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment he says:

> There were representative men in all ranks of life. Men of distinguished rank, Governors of States, Generals who had commanded armies, Jurists, Divines. Men who lend distinction to the great callings, and men worthy of being Knights companions of the greatest there, who, though unknown to fame give strength and character to the Order which they adorn and which honors them. There were men from field and forest, men from mines, factories, work-shops, counting-houses. Men whom we meet every day selling goods, building houses; men from foundry and forge. And it was a superb object lesson in the dignity and force of a manhood which has ideals; that more than thirty thousand men, out for a holiday, governed themselves with such magnificent self poise, that there was not one breach of the holiday peace of the great city, and not one uniform disgraced. That is a triumph in itself and speaks volumes for the men who have taken our obligations.

He speaks well of the condition of the several Commanderies in the jurisdiction, but suggests that more attention may well be given "to the military part of the ceremonies as set down in ritual and tactics. Very distinctly it is intended that the military character shall be impressed upon the Order and illustrated by it, and we are not fulfilling the trust reposed in us if we keep it in abeyance."

He makes a good argument against the propriety of granting dispensations allowing Subordinate Commanderies to vote on applications for the Orders at special conclaves and at a shorter period than the common custom prescribes, and concludes that as

> The ballot is safely guarded by the requirement of time between application and action, this safeguard should not and must not be lightly cast aside.

and he maintains that the mere question of personal convenience is never a good and sufficient reason for such departure from our established regulations.

The question as to what shall constitute the uniform of a Knight Templar was the subject of an elaborate report from a committee to whom was referred a petition from St. Paul Commandery, praying that they might be excused from complying with the regulation adopted at the annual conclave of 1893.

The report recommended that St. Paul Commandery be allowed to retain the regalia that had been in use since 1857, when the Commandery was organized. It was found to be a difficult thing to change the uniform of an old Commandery, and we think the committee decided wisely. Old customs and ancient usages are the landmarks that bind us to the sacred memories of the past, and Templarism loses much of its meaning and beauty when the things we have cherished and maintained through long years of service, are rudely put aside for some new device.

The membership in 1895 was 1,993 a gain of 140 during the year.

The report of the Committee on Correspondence occupies 96 pages of the Proceedings and is signed by Sir Knight Albert S. Wait for the Committee, and appears to be the work of one mind. It shows a careful study of the Proceedings of 38 Grand Commanderies and much interesting comment on the decisions of the Grand Commanders and the doings of the several Grand Bodies, is embodied therein.

Sir Knight Daniel C. Roberts of Concord was re-elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight George P. Cleaves was re-elected to the office of Grand Recorder.

The next annual conclave will be held at Concord, on Tuesday, September 29, 1896, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

S.

NEW JERSEY, 1896.

The thirty-eighth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of New Jersey was held in the City of Trenton, May 12, 1896, thirteen Commanderies being represented by one or more of their official board.

The Right Eminent Grand Commander Sir Knight Edward Hills reports that harmony and good fellowship prevail throughout the entire jurisdiction, and concludes that as not a single question has been asked during the year requiring a decision on Templar law, it is evident that the principles of the Order are firmly planted in the hearts of the Sir Knights.

A case of grievous insubordination that had come over from the preceding year, on an appeal to the Grand Encampment had been settled by a withdrawal of all Templar rights from the contumacious body; the Grand Encampment refusing to sustain the appeal and referring the case back to the Grand Commandery of New Jersey for final action.

The reports of the officers appointed to make the official visitations required by the Grand constitution are printed in the Proceedings in connection with the address of the Grand Commander. They form the basis of the Grand Commander's address concerning the condition of the Craft. The address and accompanying reports were referred to the Committee on Doings of Grand Officers, and, on their recommendation, the Grand Commandery endorsed and confirmed the actions of the Grand Commander and his Council.

A committee was appointed to make arrangements for the attendance of the Grand Commander at the next Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment to be held in Pittsburg, Pa., in October, 1898.

The Committee on Correspondence make an elaborate report in which the doings of 41 Grand Commanderies are carefully and judiciously reviewed, and some sensible lessons regarding the principles of Templar Masonry drawn therefrom which will be of interest to every lover of our magnanimous Order. The report quotes liberally from some of the Grand Commanders' addresses, and the selections made indicate that the reviewer had read with a wise and careful understanding.

The membership in the jurisdiction numbers 1,736 an increase of 117 during the year.

Sir Knight Robert Dingwell of Newark was chosen Grand Commander, and Sir Knight Charles Buchtel of Trenton was re-elected Grand Recorder for the ensuing Templar year. The next annual conclave will be held in Trenton, May 11, 1897.

S.

NEW YORK, 1895.

The eighty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York was held in the City of Niagara Falls, on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 10 and 11, 1895. The entire corps of Grand Officers was present, together with 10 Past Grand Commanders, and the representatives of 54 out of the 58 Subordinate Commanderies in the jurisdiction.

Sir Knight O. W. Cutler, Mayor of the city and Eminent Commander of Niagara Commandery No. 64, in hearty and courteous language welcomed the Grand Commandery to Niagara Falls, and a fraternal response was made by the R. E. Grand Commander Sir Knight James W. Bowden, who then gave his annual address. After congratulating the Sir Knights upon the success that had attended their mutual efforts for the good of the Order he said:

> One year ago you honored me by placing me in the coveted chair of Grand Commandership, and, while fully realizing my many infirmities, and to some extent, the lack of necessary qualification, I have tried to hold the scale of opinion with perfect equipoise, and have given to the office the best talent with which I have been endowed; and I have endeavored at all times and under all circumstances to act fairly and impartially in the discharge of the difficult, and many times complex duties of my office.

In reading his annual address one finds no indication of inexperience or lack of "necessary qualification," for it appears to be the work of a Sir Knight well armed and equipped in the essential elements of Templar Masonry, and by a vote of the Commandery at the close of the second day's session it appears that the members there in attendance had a reasonable appreciation of the efficiency and value of his services.

The address is a clear and comprehensive account of the year's work, from which it is apparent that Templarism in New York is a model of perfectness and genuine success. It closes with words that may well be accepted by all Sir Knights as an invitation to higher ideals and more earnest effort in the service of the truth.

> Accept, I pray you, my best wishes for your continued advancement and prosperity. May the noble Order to which we owe allegiance, continue in the performance of the noble tenets which are taught in our ritual. May it be our duty, as well as privilege, to not only improve society at large, but by precept and example to show to the world the benefits and influences which are so clearly enunciated in our solemn rites. Let us exercise charity to all, being slow to take offence, quick to forgive, and ready to help.

He pays a loving tribute to the memory of Sir Knight Robert Macoy who had been their Grand Recorder for a period of forty-four years, and whose name is a familiar household word in every Templar home. Genial, kindly and true are the words that tell the story of his Masonic life, and even beyond the jurisdiction of New York there are many who will remember him as one of the most accomplished of Masons and the noblest of men.

A very interesting part of these Proceedings is the report of the Committee on Necrology, of which the Reverend and Eminent Sir Knight Cornelius L. Twing is Chairman. It alludes to all those who, having performed the full measure of their earthly pilgrimage, had been "received and accepted" into the Asylum above, where the wine of joy is drunk forever new in the mansions of rest beyond the grave. The report touches a tender chord in the memories and hopes of human life, and awakens anew the immortal longings that dwell within the soul. It is a commendable addition to Templar Proceedings and we are glad to read the inspiring words that open to one's vision "the gates of day." The journey of life does not end at the tomb. Among the teachings of Templar Masonry, nothing seems more true than that sweet and solemn conviction, repeated in our ritual o'er and o'er, that the Divine purpose and the Divine love underlie and overarch all human experience and in that is our trust.

The reports of official visits made by the Grand Officers are printed with the Proceedings, from which we learn that no Subordinate Commandery is inspected by the Grand Officers unless it extends to the visiting official a special invitation so to do. This custom brought the Grand Officers in company with only 35 out of the 58 Commanderies embraced within the jurisdiction.

The Report on Correspondence occupies more than one-half of the printed Proceedings and is full of interesting and valuable matter. It reviews the doings of 37 Grand Commanderies, among which our own jurisdiction is favorably considered, quite lengthy extracts being made with commendable notice.

Under the head of Ohio he alludes to the "passage at arms" between Sir Knight Finch of Massachusetts and Sir Knight Carson of Ohio, in regard to the ritual adopted at St. Louis and concludes as follows:

> We opine that Sir Knight Finch of the Massachusetts committee will have to concede that Sir Knight Carson has the best of the argument.

Evidently he had not yet seen the vigorous rejoinder made by Sir Knight Finch in the last published Proceedings of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Under Tennessee he speaks in strong terms against granting dispensations to vote on candidates in less than the required time, but he thinks that time may well be reduced to two weeks, in the presumption that full investigation could be made in the shorter period, and adds, we think judiciously:

> But in any event, whether two or four weeks, the requirement should be mandatory and without any qualification by dispensation.

Under West Virginia he prints in full a form of service adopted by that Grand Commandery for a Christmas observance, which is, we think well worthy the occasion and the day. The report as a whole is a strong and able document and will repay a careful reading.

Sir Knight Horace A. Noble of Buffalo was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight John F. Shafer of Albany was re-elected Grand Recorder.

The next annual conclave will be held in the City of Utica, beginning Tuesday, September 8, 1896.

The total membership is reported as 10,710 an increase of 322 during the year. S.

North Carolina, 1896.

The sixteenth annual conclave of this State convened at Newbern, on Wednesday, May 13, 1896, at 8 P. M.

The Commandery was opened in ample form, Sir Knight and Rev. C. L. Hoffman acting as Grand Prelate. Sir Knight Hoffman was subsequently elected to fill that office for the ensuing Masonic year.

A Committee on Credentials was appointed, who reported that all the Grand Officers were present except the Grand Captain General and Prelate. There were also in attendance four Past Grand Commanders, one Past Grand Generalissimo, one Past Grand Captain General; five Past Commanders and fourteen other Sir Knights representing nine Subordinate Commanderies.

The address of the Grand Commander began with a congratulatory sentence in which he commends the Sir Knights of Newbern for the cordial manner in which they had received the Grand Commandery, and also expressive of pleasure occasioned by the fraternal greeting of members of the Order from all parts of the State.

Two deaths are recorded among the members of the Grand Commandery during the year, Sir Knight Edward M. Nadal, Past Deputy Grand Commander, and Sir Knight George W. Blount, Past Grand Generalissimo. He mentions six deaths in Subordinate Commanderies and eight Past Grand Officers of other jurisdictions, leaving it to the Committee on Necrology "to see that a proper tribute is paid to their memory."

He says he has "readily and cheerfully granted all dispensations that have been asked for," and as most of them were to allow some Subordinate Commandery to ballot and confer orders, it is presumed that the time regulation was thereby abrogated. One of these dispensations seems a little out of the regular line of Masonic custom. It was given Raleigh Commandery "to assist in the rendition of the Story of the Reformation," but as they were all approved by the Committee on Jurisprudence it is presumable that our North Carolina fratres were satisfied that Templarism was advanced thereby.

In regard to visitations, the Grand Commander began the year with the determination to visit every Commandery in the State, all except the three that were apportioned to him, at his own expense, but he soon found that the fulfillment of such a purpose, however laudable and meritorious it might be in itself, was subject to many qualifying circumstances, and he was obliged to confess that in some instances these good resolutions were of no avail. He did do, however, a commendable work, and we have no doubt that new zeal and an awakened interest were manifest throughout the entire jurisdiction. An effort honestly put forth for the advancement of any truth produces its legitimate result, and the general good is enhanced thereby. It is by faithful endeavor that noble purposes are made successful, and wherever such an ideal animates the Sir Knights of any Commandery or jurisdiction, there is certain to be progress all along the line. We commend the purpose even though it did not reach the full realization of the hope in which it began.

He is not very enthusiastic, however, over the proposition concerning Christmas observance, but thinks that as most of the members of the Order are men of mature years and heads of families, it is more in accordance with the nature of things that Christmas should be spent at home, and he fears that if there was not more enthusiasm in the other Commanderies that complied with the order than in the one he was present at, the custom will not be likely to become popular in North Carolina.

He recommended that a committee be appointed to make arrangements for the Triennial at Pittsburg, which was afterwards adopted and complied with by the appointment of Sir Knights Hackburn, Bailey and Maxwell.

The Grand Recorder makes quite an elaborate report and among other things questions the propriety or usefulness of the Grand Representative system, and adds,

> It is at most an empty honor and the purpose of its creation could be better subserved in another direction.

We are inclined to agree with him.

The Report on Correspondence is from the pen of Sir Knight John C. Chase, and is an exceedingly interesting and readable document. It occupies 128 pages of the Proceedings and reviews the doings of 39 Grand Commanderies.

He gives a generous space to Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and regrets that he shall not have the pleasure of meeting Sir Knight P. Voorhees Finch again in print, but gives him the courteous assurance "that we shall cherish our brief reportorial acquaintance as one of our most pleasant recollections." Thank you Brother Chase, for the good feeling you entertain towards my worthy predecessor, and although you and I are strangers after the manner of men, the reading of your report has awakened a strong desire to know you better, and I hereby extend my hand across the spaces and with it a friendly grip of Knightly greeting.

Sir Knight Chase agrees with the Grand Recorder of North Carolina in regard to the usefulness of the "Grand Representative system." Noting that the Committee on Correspondence for the Grand Commandery of Alabama suggests that it might be a good idea to "let one Sir Knight represent all the Grand Commanderies near his own," he advises that

> It might be made the especial prerogative of the Deputy Grand Commander, who is not usually overworked and is generally classed with the fifth wheel of a coach, or the vermiform appendix, being as useless as the

former is traditionally supposed to be, but possessing none of the dangers that are popularly credited to the latter.

In regard to the proposition to place the names of all candidates to be balloted for, on the notice cards for the meeting, he is fearful that some unpleasant consequences might follow in case the applicant is rejected. All such danger would be averted by following the course adopted in the Commanderies of Massachusetts and Rhode Island of sending all such notices in a sealed envelope.

The next annual conclave will be held at Wilmington, on Wednesday, May 21, 1897, at 8 P. M.

Sir Knight William A. Withers of Raleigh, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight Horace H. Munson of Wilmington was re-elected Grand Recorder.

Members reported as belonging to the 11 Commanderies in the jurisdiction 347, which is a loss of one member during the year. S.

NORTH DAKOTA, 1896.

The Grand Commandery of North Dakota assembled in the City of Fargo, on Friday, June 12, 1896, at their seventh Grand Conclave, all the Grand Officers except the E. Grand Junior Warden, and the representatives of the seven chartered Commanderies in the jurisdiction being present.

The R. E. Grand Commander Sir Knight Clarence A. Hale opened the Grand Commandery in ample form, devotional exercises being conducted by E. Sir Knight Sylvester J. Hill, Grand Prelate.

All resident and visiting Sir Knights were invited to seats in the Grand Commandery during the session, a Committee on Credentials appointed, after which the R. E. Grand Commander read his annual address.

He confines himself entirely to matters pertaining to the Order in his own jurisdiction, and gives some excellent advice in regard to the work and customs prevailing therein. He desires that the Grand Commandery should possess a banner and recommends that the balance of the money left over from the attendance upon the Triennial Session of the Grand Encampment be set apart as the nucleus of a fund to be known as the "Grand Commandery Banner Fund," and that ten cents per capita be assessed upon all the members of the Order in the State to be added thereto until enough is obtained to secure the coveted prize, and the special committee to whom the matter was afterward referred recommended that the project be carried out, and the Grand Commandery so voted. The sum with which the fund begins is $26.47.

The Grand Commander alludes with much feeling and true Knightly sympathy to the losses the Order has sustained by the hand of death during the year, and counsels the Sir Knights to remember the sublime lessons of the ritual wherein the hope of immortality is announced so clearly, and the assurance given of a life that is not subject to the power of death, awaiting the advent of the valiant Knight into the abode of the blessed.

Templarism treads the pathway that opens into joys that are immortal, and although one may be led captive for a season, there is positive assurance that victory awaits the pilgrim ere the journey ends, and in that victory eternal life and everlasting love are in command forevermore.

The Committee on Necrology adds words of tender sympathy and fraternal condolence to surviving friends.

The memorial pages are rather elaborate, and the design embodied therein does not seem to add much meaning to the simple fact they are supposed to portray. To our mind there is nothing grander or more sublime than the plain announcement, with name and date, of the mournful event. The ghastly tombstone adds no element of beauty, and embattled wall and implements of Masonic work give no indication of the hope that the heart is allowed to cherish as one thinks of "loved ones gone before."

The Grand Commander speaks strongly and wisely in regard to similarity of methods and customs throughout the jurisdiction, and gives good advice concerning the military exercises in the several Commanderies which the Grand Commandery endorsed. Nothing adds more beauty and efficiency to the work than exactness and precision in rendering the ritual, and to obtain this there must be a complete and perfect harmony of procedure throughout the whole.

To this end the Grand Encampment has revised the ritual, and it becomes us as loyal Sir Knights to observe and perform the same as the order reads.

The Christmas observance was honored in all the Subordinate Commanderies, and at high twelve throughout the jurisdiction the fratres met and sent greeting to the Grand Master in Knightly obedience and courteous respect.

Grand Representatives were appointed near other Grand Bodies, Sir Knight Charles E. Pierce being their representative for Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment at Boston formed a "red letter day" for the Sir Knights in both "Dakotas." The reception and subsequent treatment while in Boston holds a large place in the pleasant memories they still hold of this ancient jurisdiction, and special mention is made of the courtesies extended by Cambridge Commandery.

The condition of the Order in the State is reported satisfactory and hopeful prospects open before them.

The Grand Recorder in speaking of the membership says:

> Our membership now being 427, we have increased during the past five years 247 members, not a bad showing when we consider the small number of Commanderies and the number of Chapter Masons to draw from. Our present Chapter membership is 798, so that 28 more than one-half of Chapter Masons are Knights Templars, a showing, I venture to say, not to be excelled by any jurisdiction in the United States.

A good showing Sir Knight Recorder, a good showing indeed, but we venture the prediction that had the statistics from other jurisdictions of Capitular and Templar Masonry been at hand you would not have claimed the honor of being at the head of the list. In Massachusetts and Rhode Island for instance, out of a Chapter membership of 16,391, 11,499 are Knights Templars. The percentage in North Dakota being about 50.5 while in Massachusetts and Rhode Island it is over 70.

A membership registry has been begun, and means instituted by which a complete enrolment will be kept at the Grand Recorder's office, in which the name and Masonic history of every Sir Knight in the jurisdiction can be seen. This seems to be a wise proceeding and if carefully carried out the character and standing of the entire membership will be known.

The special committee to whom the matter was referred commended the action of the Grand Recorder, and pledged the co-operation and endorsement of the Grand Commandery to the work which was adopted.

Arrangements were made for holding a Grand Encampment at the time of the annual conclave of the Grand Commandery, at which all the Subordinate Commanderies should be invited to join in a competitive drill, the prize being possession of the Grand Commandery banner until won by a more successful competitor.

The next annual conclave will be held at Devil's Lake during the session of the summer Chautauqua meetings. Time to be fixed by the first four officers of the Grand Commandery.

There is no report on Correspondence.

Present membership 427, an increase of 25 during the year.

R. E. Sir Knight William T. Perkins of Bismarck, was elected Grand Commander, and E. Sir Knight Frank J. Thompson of Fargo, was re-elected Grand Recorder.

S.

OHIO, 1895.

The festivities of the preceding year, when the Grand Commandery of Ohio met at Cleveland, were not repeated at the session of 1895, for by vote of the Grand Commandery in 1894 it was ordered that "no parade, reception or entertainment will be held or accepted except the customary escort by the local Commandery to the place of meeting," and by General Order No. 5, of the Series of 1894–95, the conclave was called to meet at Columbus, on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 1895. The escort was furnished by Mt. Vernon Commandery, No. 1, of Columbus. The lines being formed at

9.30 A. M., the Grand Officers were escorted from "Hotel Chittendon," the headquarters of the Grand Commandery, to the Board of Trade Auditorium where the Grand Commandery was opened in ample form with prayer and responsive service led by Sir Knight and Rev. Thomas J. Mellish, Eminent Grand Prelate.

The wearing of the full Templar costume was dispensed with by vote of the Grand Commandery, and all Sir Knights in good standing were welcomed to the Asylum during the conclave. The report of the Committee on Credentials indicated that all the Grand Officers were present, six Past Grand Commanders, one Past Grand Captain-General, twenty-five Grand Representatives of sister jurisdictions, (among whom we do not find anyone credited to Massachusetts and Rhode Island), sixty-nine Past Commanders of Subordinate Commanderies and ninety representatives of fifty of the fifty-four Commanderies of the State.

The address of the Grand Commander begins with the following very excellent acknowledgment:

> The first lesson we were taught in Masonry was, before entering upon any important undertaking to invoke the blessing of God. How much more is it incumbent upon us to recollect while we look to Him "who doeth all things well," that His care has been exercised over us during the past year, that the blessings we so earnestly sought have been vouchsafed us. With grateful hearts do we render our thanksgiving for the life and health that has made it possible for us to assemble once more to participate in the deliberations of the fifty-third annual conclave of this Grand Commandery, to review the past, to consider the present, to plan for the future promotion of the interests of our Order. While we exchange our courteous Knightly salutations, in the strong grasp of the hand, the light of the eye, and the breathing of the lips in their fraternal greeting, we are assured that love is the one grand characteristic of our Order ; love for each other, love for all that is pure and good, love for the blessed Immanuel—this is the bond that unites us in a Christian cause, that prompts us to promote each other's welfare.

Peace and harmony, prosperity and good fellowship have characterized the experience of the past year, and the reports are favorable all along the lines.

He speaks fitting words of commendation for the fratres who have fallen in life's battle during the year, and with tender and reverent thought he asks the Sir Knights to pause and consider the lessons that come to them from these solemn visitations, while with hopeful trust they remember that though "shut out from our view" they are not far away. Life and death stand side by side, but there is reason to believe that a blessed immortality awaits us in the world beyond, and passing through what is called "the Gate of Death" as we look at it from this side, we shall find that upon the portals on the other side is written "the Gate of Life."

The Committee on Necrology makes suitable mention, and a memorial page is set apart for each member of the Grand Commandery, deceased, while the names of all others are recorded as best befits the occasion.

We question the taste, however, or perhaps the judgment of those who have the responsibility of arranging these memorial tablets in making them a row of funereal designs, as if the picture were the principal thing. It makes the Proceedings look like the advertising pamphlet of some enterprising dealer in tomb-stones.

The Ohio Masonic Home was dedicated October 25, 1895, and invitations to attend and witness the interesting ceremonies were courteously extended by the Fraternity in Springfield where the Home is located, to every Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery in the State.

By the report of the Assistant Secretary of the Home it appears that the total receipts up to Sept. 31, 1895, were $121,174.38. Total disbursements were $110,294.23, with outstanding claims exclusive of furnishings of $11,196.82 to be provided for. The establishment of Masonic Homes for the destitute, the widow and the orphan is a wise provision, but to make them successful and a credit to the Craft they ought to be generously endowed so that there would be no need of continued anxiety in regard to the funds required to meet daily expenses.

The Grand Officers were installed at the afternoon session and the Grand Commandery was closed in ample form.

The report of the Committee on Correspondence was prepared by Sir Knight Enoch T. Carson, the Chairman of the

Committee, who states that this is his *twentieth* presentation of the doings of the several Grand Bodies of the United States, Canada and England.

To say that the report is able and interesting is but to repeat what everyone, who is at all familiar with Masonic affairs, knows must be true of anything coming from the pen of our worthy frater. He wields a trenchant pen and has the courage of his convictions in regard to all questions of Templar custom or Masonic law. He does not seem to be deeply in love with the ritual as now promulgated, but like a loyal son of the Craft he submits and endeavors to do the best he can with the material furnished, but under the head of Alabama he commends the strictures of Brother Moore, and says:

> In fact, he substantially agrees with us, that in the Red Cross it was simply a change without an improvement, and in fact *we* think it is worse. It is refreshing to find a reviewer who has the ability and the nerve to express himself on the subject of the ritual. The truth of the matter is that there is only one out of a thousand who understand the ritual subject at all. Brother Moore points out the glaring inconsistencies still retained in the ritual, and in addition to this calls attention to the inconsistencies and errors contained in that wonderful history of the Red Cross.

Still we imagine that the question is settled for a lifetime with many of us at least, and the wisest course is to accept the situation, and by a faithful and effective rendering of the work impress the candidate with the lesson it inculcates, "Magna est veritas et prevalebit," as best we may.

Under the head of California he quotes with outspoken approval some criticisms which the Grand Commander uttered on the attempt to make it appear that the Mystic Shrine is an outgrowth of Templarism, and by the judicious use of *italics* Brother Carson has caused the language of California's Grand Commander to portray his own feelings with striking force and intensity. We are inclined to agree with the position taken. Templarism is complete in itself. It needs no supplementary attachments to round out its sublime ideals, certainly none which endorses the extravagances that characterize the peculiarities of the Shriners.

Massachusetts and Rhode Island receives a generous notice of three pages, and although he finds little to criticise or commend he is pleased to say that our anticipations in regard to the Triennial were more than realized. He concedes that the Sir Knights of this jurisdiction are capital hosts and know how to run a campaign.

At the end of the report is a paper on "Androgynal Freemasonry," in which our worthy frater attempts to portray the dangers that are likely to arise should we so far depart from the ancient customs as to allow Master Masons to bring their wives and daughters with them to gatherings where a sentinel is placed at the door, and a grip and word required of those who have permission to enter. But Sir Carson is not a good writer of romance. That scene in which an indignant wife reads a historical lesson to her belated husband is too ludicrous to be called argument, and the absurdity of the situation is so apparent that we wonder how a man of his judgment could have made use of it.

There is no more danger of excess and abuse of social privileges in a meeting of Masons with their wives and daughters, than there is in the numberless other organizations where men and women enjoy the socialities of human life. The pictures with which the paper is embellished are simply disgusting. They were evidently prepared by some enemy and intended to caricature a ceremony of which the inventor was absolutely ignorant. Certain it is that no ritual of the "Order of the Eastern Star" has anything in it that would furnish the remotest hint of such a performance.

Sir Knight Carson, the paper and its illustrations are unworthy your noble and generous impulses, and until some better reason can be offered, than is here advanced, why the wives and daughters of Master Masons may not enjoy the lessons of charity, honor, prudence and virtue which the "Order of the Eastern Star" affords, I fancy that they will continue, notwithstanding the objections of our worthy frater and friend.

The next annual conclave of the Grand Commandery will be held at Dayton, on Wednesday, October 14, 1896.

Sir Knight John P. McCune of Columbus, was elected

Grand Commander, and Sir Knight John Nelson Bell of Dayton, was re-elected Grand Recorder. Membership reported, 7,914, an increase of 348 during the year. s.

Oregon, 1895.

The ninth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Oregon was opened in ample form at 11 A. M., Thursday, Oct. 10, 1895, the Grand Prelate Sir Knight Barney D. Paine leading in the devotional exercises. There is nothing in the records to indicate that Sir Knight Paine is a clergyman so we conclude that he is not. He was subsequently elected Grand Captain General.

Previous to the opening of the conclave, the Sir Knights of Temple Commandery No. 3, of the City of Albany, where this session of the Grand Commandery was held, assembled in their Asylum, formed their lines, and with band playing and banners flying proceeded to receive and escort, as the trains arrived, the various visiting Commanderies, Sir Knights and ladies to their quarters.

In the afternoon the procession was formed with four Commanderies in line. The Grand Commander and other Grand Officers in carriages were escorted through the principal streets of the city to the Public Park, where a review and exhibition drill were the order of the day.

At the opening exercises of the Grand Commandery, R. E. Sir Knight David P. Mason, P. G. C., in behalf of Temple Commandery No. 3, gave a cordial address of welcome to the city, the homes of the Sir Knights and to their Asylum, promising, so far as their abilities would permit, to make this session of the Grand Commandery such a delightful occasion that they should all carry pleasant memories of it in their hearts evermore. It would appear from the further reading of the records that their promise was fulfilled to the satisfaction of all the visiting Sir Knights.

The Committee on Credentials reported that all the Grand Officers except the Grand Sword Bearer and Grand Warder, together with four Past Grand Commanders, fourteen Past Commanders, the Grand Representatives of eighteen

sister jurisdictions, and the Eminent Commanders, Generalissimos and Captains-General, either in person or by proxy, of five Commanderies, were in attendance. Malta No. 4, was not represented.

The Grand Commander's address was confined to business matters pertaining to the work of the preceding year, but the Grand Recorder appends a note as follows:

> R. E Grand Commander Malcolm further addressed the Grand Commandery extemporaneously in words of wisdom and Knightly counsel, in which your Grand Recorder became so much interested that he failed to make notes, and hereby apologizes to those not present for the neglect. Those who were present and heard him will certainly excuse the Recorder for being equally interested with them in the eloquent remarks of the Grand Commander.

The committee to whom the address was referred embodied a request in their report that the Grand Commander furnish a copy of the extemporaneous portion that it might be printed in the Proceedings, but as no further notice appears in relation thereto it is presumed that so much of the address is forever lost to the Fraternity outside the select circle that was permitted to listen on that eventful day.

One new Commandery was instituted and two dispensations granted, both of which were for the questionable purpose of allowing Commanderies to ballot on candidates in less than the statutory time.

The Grand Standard Bearer, the only member of the Grand Commandery who attended the Triennial at Boston, made a glowing report of the festivities of the occasion, including a brief notice of the business of the Grand Encampment.

The report of the Grand Recorder deals in statistics only.

A resolution was adopted providing for the purchase of a suitable banner to be known as the "Drill Corps Banner," which was to be the property of that Commandery that should excel in a competitive drill to be held at the time and place of the subsequent sessions of the Grand Commandery, and it was further provided that when procured it should be placed in the keeping of De Molay Commandery No. 5, of Salem, by whom the exhibition drill on this occasion was given.

After the close of the business of the session the whole company of Sir Knights with their ladies "were invited into adjoining banquet rooms, where a superb banquet was provided and served by the ladies of Albany Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star."

At the conclusion of the banquet a concert and ball were indulged in, and the Proceedings declare that

> Henceforth the hospitable character of Temple No. 3, will be enshrined in the pleasant memories of Oregon Templars.

The report on Correspondence is from the pen of Sir Knight J. M. Hodson who presents a clear and comprehensive resumé of the doings of thirty-six Grand Commanderies.

Massachusetts and Rhode Island receives a courteous notice, in which he pays his respects to Sir Knight Finch, our predecessor in the reportorial work, in a very pleasant way. It was in regard to representation in the Grand Encampment, but as both agree in the spirit and purpose of such representation there was no opportunity for contention, "save that noble contention, or rather emulation, as to who can best work and best agree."

Sir Knight Hodson knows how to express himself in wholesome, vigorous language, and commends or criticizes as the conviction within him dictates.

Touching the substance of a Templar's creed, under the head of Michigan, he endorses the statement of Sir Knight Gerow, who said "Templarism is above creed contentions. Religion is a personal question with the individual and he should choose for himself without bringing a contention where brethren dwell together in unity."

Speaking of the use of the American Flag, under the head of Maryland, he commends the opinion of Sir Knight Gorgas and says:

> He endorses the flying of the American Flag by Templar processions—we have no objections—could take that flag to church, to school, to Lodge, keep it at home the year round and never get tired seeing it, and when it is waved by either citizen or Templar, either as a mark of love or loyalty, we respect and admire the actuating sentiment, but we prefer such shall be the voluntary act of the performers and not the result of legal requirement; hence no laws are necessary.

Membership reported, 404, a gain of 23 during the year.

Sir Knight B. E. Lippincott of Portland, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight James F. Robinson of Eugene, re-elected Grand Recorder.

The next annual conclave will convene at Portland, Thursday, October 8, 1896.

S.

PENNSYLVANIA, 1895.

Under a General Order, and by virtue of a dispensation issued to all the Commanderies in the Commonwealth, by the Grand Commander R. E. Sir Knight Irving P. Wanger, thirty Commanderies met in the City of Reading, on the morning of Tuesday, May 28, 1895, for annual parade and review.

The lines were formed at 10.30 A. M. and at 10.45 the grand march began, and after passing over the prescribed route the entire command was reviewed by the Grand Commander.

At 3 P. M. the Grand Commandery met in annual conclave and the labors of the forty-second session were begun. All the Grand Officers, thirteen Past Grand Commanders, the Grand Representatives of ten sister jurisdictions (among whom we do not find a representative for Massachusetts and Rhode Island) and a constitutional number of Commanderies were reported present. The R. E. Grand Commander opened the Grand Commandery in ample form, devotional exercises being conducted by the Grand Prelate, Em. Sir and Rev. Chas. T. Morgan.

A cordial welcome to the city was extended by the Mayor, Sir Knight William F. Shanaman.

The Grand Commander then read his annual address which was confined chiefly to matters pertaining to the Order in their own jurisdiction, except that in his decisions certain questions were considered that are of general interest. In regard to the influence of the Order as a conservator of the public good, he says:

> The devotion which our membership has manifested in the past to the principles of our noble Order, and the recognition of the binding force of the serious lessons taught in our Asylums, in our daily conversation and affairs of life, exists in undiminished character, and adds constant prestige to our Order, as an important factor in the conservation of the best interests of society and the State.

The address shows a good degree of interest throughout the commonwealth, a steady growth in numbers and a corresponding high standard of excellence among the Sir Knights.

Among his decisions he maintains that the "cloak" is "no part of uniform."

Also that the Eminent Commander has exclusive control over admissions to the Asylums, and can permit Sir Knights to enter without uniforms, or can require all to appear suitably clothed. He may submit such a question to the Commandery, if he choose and think such a course would be courteous and appropriate, but is under no obligation to do so if he prefers to decide the matter himself.

Also, a candidate may apply any number of times after rejection, provided there be a lapse of twelve months after the last rejection.

Also, that a dimitted Knight Templar has a right to apply to any Commandery for membership, no jurisdiction or Commandery has the slightest claim upon him and no one can deny him the right of membership except by the negative ballot.

He pays a fitting tribute to the memory of those who have passed through the "Gates of Death," and adds:

> May we not be unmindful of these lessons of our mortality and the warning they utter, that probably we shall not all again meet in annual conclave, and may we make due preparation for any vicissitude affecting our career or terminating it abruptly.

The Grand Treasurer reports a balance on hand of $3,321.61.

The Grand Recorder reports that the response to the request sent out for a dollar contribution to procure a portrait in oil of the late Grand Commander—who died while in office R. E. Sir Charles C. Baer,—was so prompt and generous "that at an early day we were able to order a life size portrait in oil, which now adorns the east wall in the room in the Masonic Temple at Philadelphia, known as the Grand Commandery room."

He reports also the completion of an Index and Register which gives a complete list of all rejections, suspensions and expulsions from 1860 to 1894, and by a continuation of the Register there will be at the office of the Grand Recorder a complete list of the membership, with date of admission and date of rejection if the applicant was not approved.

It would seem as if this would be a valuable addition to the possessions of the Grand Commandery, and will no doubt prove of much service in determining at any time the actual condition of the Order throughout the commonwealth.

The report on the condition of the Masonic Home, by Sir Knight M. Richards Muckle, shows that institution to be on the flood tide of prosperity and success. The report says:

> The membership of the corporation, which on December 1, 1884, numbered 44 has during the past ten years increased to 494, embracing 101 Blue Lodges, 3 Mark Lodges, 14 Chapters, 14 Commanderies, 1 Council, 3 bodies of the A. and A. Scottish Rite, 3 honorary members, 28 life members, 67 individual members and 260 contributors.

Receipts during the year were $14,338.50, which added to resources on hand of $24,891.49 makes an aggregate of $39,231.07. Expenses for the year were $8,300.39, leaving a balance exclusive of investments of $30,930.68.

The assets of the corporation are put down at $74,628.53 with *no liabilities*, which certainly shows it to be in a healthy condition financially at least.

The Grand Officers were publicly installed on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 29, in the Academy of Music, in the the presence of a large number of Sir Knights, ladies and gentlemen.

The Grand Commander made a very appropriate and interesting address touching the principles of Masonic Knighthood, that was replete with wise suggestion and noble thought. In closing he said:

Sir Knights, may we ever respond to the impulses for good which come to the soul, seemingly as emanations from Deity. Nobility of life is infinitely better than nobility of birth. Not birth, nor rank, nor wealth, nor genius, but only virtue is the soul of true Knighthood. May it be the purpose of every member of this Order to exemplify its teachings. May you ever illustrate "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." May your influence be and continue "as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of the Lord;" and may "He who dwelleth between the cherubim command upon you His blessing, even life forevermore."

The report on Correspondence is from the pen of Sir Knight Lee S. Smith, and is a very interesting and creditable production. He reviews in an able manner the Proceedings of thirty-six Grand Commanderies, that of Massachusetts and Rhode Island receiving a generous share of his attention.

Membership reported 10,943, an increase of 349 during the year.

The next annual conclave will be held in the City of Scranton, on Tuesday, May 26, 1896.

Sir Knight Edward B. Spencer of Philadelphia, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight Mont. H. Smith of Philadelphia, was re-elected Grand Recorder. S.

South Dakota, 1896.

The thirteenth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of South Dakota was held at the Asylum of Da-Co-Tah Commandery No. 6, in the City of Huron, on Friday, June 12, 1896.

A constitutional number of Subordinate Commanderies being present, together with the Grand Officers and the Grand Representatives of seventeen sister Grand Jurisdictions, the Grand Commandery was opened in ample form, Grand Prelate E. Sir Knight John H. Babcock leading the devotions in a prayer that is printed in full in the Proceedings.

The wearing of uniforms, except the fatigue cap, was dispensed with after the morning session, and all Sir Knights visiting or residing in the city were invited to seats in the Grand Conclave.

The annual address of the Grand Commander R. E. Sir Knight Frank A. Brown is a creditable production, beginning with a dissertation on the "stupendous economy of the universe" as compared with the length of an earthly year. He found the twelve months allotted to him as Grand Commander were too short to allow him to discharge all the duties that he had laid out for himself at the beginning of the year. He congratulates his Companions, that, notwithstanding the great business depression that had visited them in common with other jurisdictions, there was much to be grateful for, and he was glad to say that a good degree of prosperity was present in all the Subordinate Commanderies.

He pays a loving and Knightly tribute to the memory of those who had fallen in life's battle and says, "upon our Committee on Knightly Dead will devolve the duty of erecting a fitting memorial to perpetuate their memory."

To attend the Triennial session of the Grand Encampment held in Boston, in August, 1895, an assessment of $1.50 was made the preceding year on each Subordinate Commandery, for each member. Some difficulty was encountered in collecting this assessment as some of the Subordinates looked upon it as a recommendation which they might obey or not as they chose. On being assured, however, that the assessment must be paid on penalty of an arrest of charter, the demand was met and the visit to Boston was made in company with the Grand Commandery of North Dakota, they having a special Dakota train from Chicago to Boston. The Grand Commander, as well as the Triennial Committee, speak in high terms of praise of the generous hospitality that was extended to them on that occasion.

Easter and Ascension Day religious services were held by a number of the Commanderies and the Grand Commander recommends that these observances be participated in by all Knights Templars in the jurisdiction. He says:

We are soldiers of the cross, whose duty it is to protect and encourage the church, and it is eminently proper and appropriate that these two

Christian memorial days should be properly observed by Commanderies of Knights Templars.

Among his decisions the Grand Commander maintains that the reading of the ritual in regard to the "indispensable number" required to open a Commandery for the dispatch of business, *does not apply* to a Commandery already constituted. A full quorum of nine entitled to vote, including an officer having authority to open the Body, must be present in order to transact the business of the Commandery legally.

He also decides that "the Grand Commander has no authority to grant a dispensation to a Commandery to allow it to receive a petition for the Orders at other than a stated conclave."

We feel inclined to indorse this as a wise decision. It is not well to overrule our established regulations in regard to the introduction of candidates. The honors of Knighthood are worth waiting for, and both petition and ballot should observe the stipulated time and form.

The Grand Treasurer's report shows a balance on hand of $679.43.

The report on the Templar dead moralizes somewhat on the shortness of life, and the necessity embraced therein of doing our best with the time and opportunity we have, but encouraging the toilers with the assurance that this earthly life is but a small portion of the life that belongs to a human soul. The tenets of Freemasonry are continually repeating the hopeful reality that life extends beyond the valley of the shadow of death to the realms of life immortal. Appreciative words in regard to the character of each of the beloved fraters who had laid aside the earthly armor are embodied in the report, and memorial pages are set apart for them all.

The report on Correspondence is prepared by Sir Knight Samuel H. Jumper of Damascus Commandery No. 10, of Aberdeen. He reviews the Proceedings of thirty-eight Grand Commanderies, making quite lengthy extracts from a number of them, without comment, leaving the reader to draw his own conclusions in regard to the subject under consideration. The report is well written and his quotations are judiciously made.

Under Massachusetts and Rhode Island he allows considerable space to an account of the Triennial, alluding particularly to the elaborate decorations that were exhibited on every side. He was also interested in the North Atlantic squadron that was lying in Boston Harbor at that time. Of the parade he says:

> The parade was one of the most magnificent that ever trod the historic streets of Boston.

Membership reported 718, showing a loss of 41 during the year.

R. E. Sir Knight James Johnson Casselman of Huron, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight Geo. Atwood Pettigrew of Flandreau, was re-elected Grand Recorder.

The next annual conclave will be held in the City of Mitchell, on Friday, June 11, 1897. S.

TENNESSEE, 1896.

On the morning of Thursday, May 14, 1896, a number of visiting Commanderies assembled in the City of Jackson, in obedience to the call of the Grand Commander who had designated that day as the time for the opening of the thirty-fourth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of Tennessee. Previous to the opening of the Grand Commandery, the Sir Knights formed in line, with Jackson Commandery No. 13, on the right, and proceeding to the Southern Hotel received the Grand Officers and escorted them through the principal streets of the city to the First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, where the Grand Commandery was welcomed to the hearts and homes of the Jackson fratres, in well chosen and eloquent words, by Sir Knight Robert W. Haynes. Among other pleasant things he said:

> The Knights of Jackson Commandery deem themselves peculiarly fortunate in being permitted to entertain the Grand Commandery on this happy occasion: to meet and worship with you our risen and ascended

> Lord on this Ascension Day; to welcome you to the jurisdiction of Jackson Commandery No. 13, to our little city, to our hearts and homes. We wish you a most enjoyable visit among us; we bespeak for the Grand Commandery a pleasant and profitable Grand Conclave; we hope for increased usefulness in its Christian career, for the valiant and magnanimous Order of Knights Templar in this Grand jurisdiction, and we pray the richest blessings of our Heavenly Father to rest upon and abide with you all forever. To one and all we tender a sincere and hearty welcome.

It would be unpardonable if, after such a happy greeting, the Sir Knights did not find the sojourn with the brethren of Jackson Commandery No. 13, one of pleasure and profit. An account of what took place "between times," as reported in the *Jackson Daily Sun*, of May 15th, would indicate that the welcome was not of words alone.

The Grand Commander Sir Knight Orion L. Hurlburt made suitable acknowledgment, accepting the cordial invitation in well chosen terms, assuring the Sir Knights of Jackson Commandery No. 13, that

> Coming under this banner and with this purpose, your words of kindly greeting are as music to our ears. They instill fresh courage into our hearts and nerve our arms for deeds of valor in our noble cause.

Then the assembled multitude listened with reverent attention and unfeigned interest to the eloquent and impressive words of the annual sermon, delivered by Sir Knight and Rev. William A. Freeman, the Grand Prelate. This ended, the Grand Commandery was escorted to the Asylum of Jackson Commandery where the annual conclave was opened in ample form, devotional exercises by the Grand Prelate.

All the Grand Officers, with the exception of the Grand Sword Bearer, seven Past Grand Officers, twenty-six Past Commanders, the representatives of thirteen Commanderies, and Grand Representatives from twenty-three sister Grand jurisdictions were reported in attendance. Massachusetts and Rhode is credited with the attendance of Sir Knight Charles H. Eastman.

A committee representing the Grand Commandery of Virginia, were admitted and received with Knightly honors due to their exalted rank, who stated that they had come with the fraternal greetings of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, with power to adjust all matters of dispute between the two Grand jurisdictions, and asked that a committee be appointed to confer with them in relation thereto. This was done, and the joint committee subsequently reported an amicable settlement of all the questions involved in the controversy.

The annual address of the Grand Commander relates almost entirely to local matters, and although he could not report any very marked progress in the Order, he was confident that the outlook for the future was hopeful and encouraging as indicated in the following words:

> This period of waiting has not been without its advantages. There is a strength that is born of waiting that is more stable than that of rapid, pushing progress, and I feel that this strength is ours, and that when the dawn of a new era of prosperity, already brightening the Eastern sky, becomes bright day, that we shall resume our forward movement with tried and tested columns, bearing our banner—the Banner of the Cross—onward and upward toward the summit of our ambition, the final approval of the Great Captain of our Salvation.

The ambition is a laudable one and we trust it will reach even unto the most gratifying reality. A record of those who had passed the portals of eternity is given, and in sweet and tender words he extends the sympathy of a Knightly heart "to those who have been called upon to bid farewell to tried companions and friends."

He had granted but two dispensations, one to allow a Commandery to attend public worship in uniform on Easter Sunday, and the other to allow "Jackson Commandery to ballot on the petition for affiliation of Sir Knight and Rev. Hugh Calvin Smith, before the expiration of the required month."

The desire of a Commandery to confer the Order of the Temple on Sunday was denied, because he "deemed it inexpedient." There may be no special reason why the Order of the Temple should be conferred on Sunday, but considering the character of the ritual, the lessons inculcated, and the general bearing of the Order itself we find nothing at variance with the most devout and reverent worship. Could the candidate, as well as those engaged in conferring the Order, accept its teaching with serious thought and resolve to honor in subsequent life the admonitions there given, methinks both the day and the work would be sanctified.

The committee to whom was referred the resolutions on the subject of temperance, introduced by Sir Knight T. W. Crutcher, reported that they were in full sympathy with the spirit and purpose of the same and recommended the following, which, after due consideration by the Grand Commandery, was adopted:

1. The Grand Commandery of Tennessee declares the business of manufacturing for sale as a beverage, or selling spirituous or malt liquors as a beverage, to be contrary to the teachings of our Order, and that any Knight Templar engaging in said business, either as principal or employee, does so in willful disregard of his duty and obligation as a Knight Templar.

2. Should there be a Knight Templar in this jurisdiction, either affiliated or unaffiliated, who is engaged in said business, it should be the duty of the Commandery to which he belongs, or within whose jurisdiction he resides, to issue notices at once requiring said Knight to discontinue said business within six months. If he shall fail to do so the Commandery shall prefer charges against him, and upon conviction he shall be suspended or expelled.

3. After the promulgation of these statutes, should a member of any Commandery in the State of Tennessee, or any unaffiliated Templar in this jurisdiction, engage in said business as principal or employee, it shall be the duty of the Commandery to which he belongs, or under whose jurisdiction he may reside, to prefer charges against him, and upon conviction he shall be suspended or expelled.

4. It shall be the duty of Subordinate Commanderies to strictly enforce these statutes, under the penalty of a forfeiture of charter.

These are brave words, fitly and courageously spoken, and we heartily recommend the stand here taken to all the Grand jurisdictions, in the conviction that as the Order is designed to elevate and improve mankind it cannot in justice to itself give countenance or support to a business whose legitimate fruitage is debauchery, degredation and ruin. Thanks, Sir Knights of Tennessee, the Sun of Righteousness is at its meridian height in the South.

The report on Correspondence is from the pen of Sir Knight Wilbur F. Foster, who is also Grand Recorder. It is a well written document and reviews with careful consideration the Proceedings of forty-three Grand Bodies. Massachusetts and Rhode Island is granted a liberal and generous notice, a large portion of which is devoted to the management of the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment.

Under the head of Michigan, Sir Knight Foster uses strong words in opposition to the custom of conferring the Order of Malta at the same conclave in which the Order of the Temple has been worked. He believes that the impressions left by the beautiful ritual of the Temple should not be contaminated with any side issues. He wants the recipient to go away thinking only of the lessons that are associated with the base of the Triangle, or the picture of the Cross.

He is right. One cannot gild refined gold, nor brighten the lustre of the diamond by an artificial glass.

He closes his very interesting report with a sigh, regretting that so much labor should be given to a work that so few have any desire to see, but hoping for the best he commends us all to the loving care of Him who doeth all things well.

The next annual conclave will meet in Clarksville, May, 1897, the special days to be designated by the Grand Commander.

A membership of 1,090 is reported, showing a gain of 25.

Sir Knight Robert W. Haynes of Jackson, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight Wilbur F. Foster of Nashville, was re-elected Grand Recorder. S.

TEXAS, 1896.

A special conclave of the Grand Commandery of Texas was held at Galveston, on May 4, 1895, to attend the funeral of Sir Knight James Sorley, Past Grand Commander of Texas and Past Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

V. E. Sir Knight Henry Bates Stoddard, Grand Captain General of the Grand Encampment being present was invited to take charge of the Commandery and conduct the ceremonies, which he did in a very acceptable manner, speaking in eloquent and sympathetic terms of the life and character of the distinguished dead.

After the services were concluded the Grand Commandery repaired to the Asylum of St. Felipe de Austin Commandery No. 1, where the opening exercises were held, and was closed with appropriate ceremony.

The forty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery was convened at San Antonio, on Wednesday, April 22, 1896.

Previous to the regular opening of the Grand Commandery, the Grand Officers and members assembled in the Grand Opera House where an address of welcome was given by Sir Knight J. H. McLeary, in behalf of San Antonio Commandery No. 7, closing with this very cordial and suggestive announcement:

> Having thus extended to you the right hand of fellowship . . . I leave you to the care and custody of the fair ladies of our city to see that you receive all the hospitality to which your Knighthood gives you right and title.

The R. E. Grand Commander responded in words befitting the occasion, alluding to other memories of the treatment they had received at the hands of the Sir Knights of San Antonio.

The Grand Prelate then gave an excellent address which is printed in full in the Proceedings. He spoke of the principles and teachings of the Order, and admonished the Sir Knights "to walk worthy the vocation" to which, as members of this valiant and magnanimous Order, they were called.

The address is an eloquent appeal in behalf of the tendencies inherent in Christian Knighthood, and in closing he congratulated the fratres that they were so fortunate as to have the sympathy and assistance of all that was best and most true, in the presence of the wives and daughters who graced the occasion in such large numbers.

After the public exercises the Grand Commandery repaired to the Asylum of San Antonio Commandery No. 7, and the R. E. Grand Commander Sir Knight John McDonald opened the annual conclave in ample form, E. Grand Prelate Sir

Knight J. E. Carpenter leading in their devotions. All the Grand Officers were present except the Grand Standard Bearer. There were also in attendance ten Past Grand Commanders, thirteen Grand Representatives of sister Grand jurisdictions, and the representatives of twenty-seven Subordinate Commanderies.

The Grand Commander's annual address deals almost entirely with local matters, in which we are sorry to see that on no less than twenty occasions he gave dispensations allowing Commanderies to ballot on petitions and confer the Orders in less than the regular time. Under these dispensations forty-eight Companions were endowed with all the rights and privileges of Knights Templars.

He makes special mention of the events associated with the Triennial, and believes that:

> Too much cannot be said of the splendor which characterized the reception of the visiting Sir Knights in Boston. Everything was done on a grand scale. Hospitality was emblazoned on every feature, and especially was this so in the treatment of the Sir Knights and ladies of Texas. The local Sir Knights and the people seemed intent upon engendering more cordial and friendly relations between the two sections of the country thus brought together.

Right you are, Sir Knight Commander; we wanted to show you that the courtesies and friendships of Templar Masonry were based on principles as broad as humanity itself, and that in the grasp of a Templar's hand you had the assurance of an earnest and uncompromising brotherhood, without partiality and without hypocrisy. We are glad you enjoyed the Triennial. When the Grand Encampment meets in Boston again come and sit down at the feast once more; we will not belie the record of the past.

The Committee on Necrology made an excellent report on the evidences of mortality that day by day impress themselves upon us, making special mention of the estimable qualities of Sir Knight James Sorley, who was "respected, honored and loved by the Masonic Fraternity everywhere."

The report on Correspondence is made by Sir Knight Robert M. Elgin as chairman, who reviews the Proceedings of forty Grand Commanderies, Massachusetts and Rhode Island receiving its full share of courteous attention.

He wields a trenchant pen and states his opinions in a clear and concise manner as if he knew whereof he was expected to write. He reveals himself in the closing paragraphs of his report, and that our readers may know what manner of man he is, we quote:

> In concluding our report, will say to our brotherhood of the mutuals, that we hope that this report contains nothing harsh or disrespectful. We are fond of discussion, but averse to controversy; a lover of wit, but opposed to sarcasm; and while we may sometimes have to differ with our friends, not unfrequently love those best with whom we least agree upon particular points. So with good will and fraternal feelings to all, will close with the hope that we may all be spared to meet again in this arena next year.

We extend our hand across the spaces, Frater Elgin, and echo the wish with which you close; and should the fates bring us together somewhere on this green earth in the days that are yet to be, we shall expect to find a royal Sir Knight whose acquaintance is a joy to the soul.

Membership reported 2,129, an increase of 49 during the year.

Sir Knight J. F. Brinkerhoff of Waco, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight Robert Brewster of Houston, was re-elected Grand Recorder.

The next annual conclave will be held in the City of Houston, on Wednesday, April 21, 1897. S.

VERMONT, 1896.

At 10 o'clock in the morning of Tuesday, June 9, 1896, the fratres being assembled in the Asylum of Burlington Commandery No. 3, of the State of Vermont, the Grand Commander Sir Knight Silas W. Cummings, opened the annual conclave of the Grand Commandery in ample form, Sir Knight and Rev. A. N. Lewis officiating as Grand Prelate.

All Sir Knights in regular standing in the Order were invited to seats in the Grand Commandery.

At roll call by the Grand Recorder all the Grand Officers, except the E. Grand Generalissimo, E. Grand Captain General and E. Grand Prelate responded, and by the report of the Committee on Credentials it appeared that there were present eight Past Grand Commanders, three Past Deputy Grand Commanders, thirty-two Grand Representatives of other Grand Commanderies, and the representatives of ten Commanderies.

The annual address of the R. E. Grand Commander is an able paper, speaking words of welcome and congratulation in view of the largely increased membership, the continuance of peace and harmony in the ranks, and the happy relations sustained with all the sister Grand Commanderies.

But in close relation with the causes for congratulation, there came the sad consciousness of broken ties and vacant chairs. Valiant Sir Knights to whom the annual Knightly greeting had been so often extended had passed the confines of mortality and entered upon that larger life, which we believe awaits the entrance of the soul into the realms of immortality. It is ever thus. We rejoice because of the happy memories that life affords, but memory holds another picture of the stern reality. We must say the last long farewell. Those we loved go out from our sight, and we mourn the loss their going occasions even though faith bids us believe that life and love and joy and peace are theirs still, and that bye and bye we shall meet again and partake of that libation that is drunk forever new in the Father's House above.

Three worthy Sir Knights, members of the Grand Commandery had entered into their rest, and fitting words of commendation and sympathy were spoken which must have awakened a new hope in the hearts of all who heard them. The committee to whom the address was referred, reported that:

> Rarely have we been addressed in words so fitting, seldom have we listened to words more opportune and needful, more timely and good. We bow in silence and with sorrowful approbation to the tender words and eloquent tribute of our R. E. Grand Commander, to our beloved fratres who have passed the dark vail that hides from our eyes the celestial glories of the Asylum above, and we join with him in the recommendation that

memorial pages be set apart in our printed Proceedings in loving remembrance of our Knightly dead.

Such was done in simple beauty. A clean page with single line of black on the border, with the names of those they would honor inscribed thereon.

The reports of the Grand Officers who were commissioned to visit the Subordinate Commanderies and which were embodied in the R. E. Grand Commander's address, revealed the interesting fact that a deep interest in the success and honor of the Order was everywhere manifest, that the *esprit de corps* was excellent, and that the evident determination of the Sir Knights throughout the jurisdiction was to maintain the dignity and reputation of the Order at the highest standard.

A good share of the address is devoted to the events associated with the Triennial at Boston, and it is evident that the fratres from the Green Mountains acquitted themselves with credit and reflected high honor upon the Grand Commandery.

In closing he said :

> For the future of our beloved Order in this State I have no fear ; while its ennobling principles are enshrined in your hearts and exemplified in your lives there will be manifest the highest type of the true Christian Knighthood.

A dispensation for a new Commandery, to be located at Barre and bear the name of "St. Aldemar," was granted.

The report on Correspondence is from the pen of Sir Knight Kittredge Haskins who reviews the Proceedings of forty-two Grand Jurisdictions in an exceedingly interesting manner. There is judicious comment and a wise selection of paragraphs for reproduction. The intent with which the report began "to embody the more interesting and important matters that have occurred during the year," has been carefully and faithfully carried out.

The proceedings of Massachusetts and Rhode Island receive a generous notice. Some good things said by our Grand Commander are quoted with approval, and he gives unstinted words of praise to the report of the Triennial Committee, which he says :

> Speaks for itself and should be read by every Sir Knight.

He has a good word to say of Sir Knight P. Voorhees Finch, our predecessor as reporter of these matters, and regrets that he is not to meet him again in the same company. We thank you, Sir Knight Haskins, for the pleasant words you have given concerning the qualifications of our beloved frater, and assure you that he would return with Knightly courtesy the kind remembrance. We may not fill the place so well as he, but we have read with an increasing interest the valuable report on Correspondence that forms a part of the printed Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Vermont and we extend our hand in Knightly greeting.

Membership reported 1,458, an increase of 62.

Sir Knight Robert J. Wright of Newport, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight Warren G. Reynolds of Burlington, was re-elected Grand Recorder.

The next annual conclave will be held in Burlington, on Tuesday, June 8, 1897. S.

VIRGINIA, 1895.

The seventy-third annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of Virginia, was held on Thursday, November 14, 1895, in the Masonic Temple at Richmond. All the Grand Officers, three Past Grand Commanders, twelve Past Commanders, the Grand Representatives of fifteen sister jurisdictions, and the representatives of fourteen Commanderies being present.

The Grand Commandery was opened in ample form.

A special assembly of the Grand Commandery was held in Richmond, on Tuesday, June 11, 1895, to pay the last tribute of love and respect to the memory of Sir Knight Wm. B. Isaacs. Sir Knight Isaacs was Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Masons, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter, Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, and Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of the United States. The Memorial Committee reported the following testimonial which was spread upon the records. It breathes the spirit of true Knightly affection, and we copy it entire:

> The hearts of Knights Templar, not only in Virginia but from the Atlantic to the Pacific, were made sad indeed when on that bright summer morn June 9, 1895, the mournful news was flashed from shore to shore that the name of our honored and beloved Grand Recorder had been stricken from the roll of human existence.
>
> For half a century he had occupied a seat at the desk of the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Virginia, and as a token of affection we place on record this tribute to his memory.
>
> His life was full of the many good deeds that make the world better for his having lived in it; he had so lived that when the summons came he obeyed the call and approached the grave "like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams."
>
> He was genial, social, loving; when he grasped your hand you felt that it was the grasp of friendship.
>
> In his death Templar Masonry has lost a valuable worker, the community in which he lived a good citizen, a generous neighbor and a true friend; his family a devoted husband and a loving father. His daily life was one worthy of emulation, and his death a calamity to the fraternity not soon to be repaired. God grant that as our lives speed onward, they shall exhibit the same love and devotion to the Order that was manifested in the life of our departed frater.

There was genuine sorrow at the grave of their loved companion and friend, for he had held high and honored place in the counsels of the fraternity, and the brethren had learned to love and respect him for the unselfish manner in which he exemplified the qualities of a Christian gentleman and Sir Knight.

The Grand Commander's annual address refers in touching words to the funeral services, at which a vast concourse of Masons, including the Grand Bodies in which he held official position, were present. The Grand Encampment was represented in the person of Most Eminent Sir Knight James H. Hopkins, Past Grand Master.

Two other members of the Grand Commandery had passed beyond the portals of death, and fitting words of appreciation were spoken in their behalf.

The Grand Commander had issued eighteen dispensations, of which, alas! twelve were to allow Commanderies to vote on the applications for the Orders in less than the established time. Why should not a regulation of such importance be scrupulously observed? There is time enough to meet all the requirements of our constitutional law, and in most cases the emergency is fictitious, or at best the result of some unnecessary neglect. It were better if to all such requests the Grand Commander should say "no."

A note is made of the report of the committee appointed by the Grand Encampment in regard to the question of jurisdiction between the Commanderies of Virginia and Tennessee, and in accordance with the recommendation thereof, the Grand Commander advised the appointment of a committee to visit the Grand Commandery of Tennessee.

In reviewing the Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee we find that the mission of the committee was successful, and all disputes between the two Commanderies was amicably settled. Again the history of Templar life demonstrates the truth of the ancient writing, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

The Grand Commander had some very gracious words to say in regard to the Knightly greeting which was extended to the fratres of Virginia while in attendance at the Triennial in Boston, by the Sir Knights of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The reports of the Grand Officers indicated that the Order was generally in good condition, and the Sir Knights fully alive to the requirements of Templar Masonry.

A good report is given of the success and usefulness of the Masonic Home and the advantages of the education that was obtained there. An increase in the annual appropriation of $200 is recommended, which was granted, the annual dues to the Grand Commandery being enlarged to provide for the same.

A resolution was adopted urging upon all the Subordinate Commanderies the desirability of preparing, in accordance with the vote of 1894, a full history of each Commandery to be kept in the archives of the Grand Commandery for future reference. A good idea which we trust will be honestly complied with by each and every Subordinate.

Fifteen hundred copies of the Proceedings were ordered printed.

There is no report on Correspondence. Membership reported, 1,448.

Sir Knight John T. Parham of Petersburg, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight James B. Banks of Petersburg, Grand Recorder.

The next annual conclave will be held in the City of Richmond, at the call of the Grand Commander. S.

WASHINGTON, 1895.

The Grand Commandery met at the City of Seattle, on Friday, June 7, 1895.

The Proceedings are adorned with an excellent portrait of the R. E. Grand Commander, Sir Knight George N. Alexander, and at the appointed hour of 10 A. M. they declare that the eighth annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of Washington was called to order, with all the Grand Officers except the Grand Senior Warden and the Grand Warder; seven Past Grand Commanders, the Grand Representatives of nineteen sister jurisdictions, and representatives from all the eight chartered Commanderies in the State, present. The Grand Commandery was then opened in ample form, the E. Grand Prelate, Sir Knight and Rev. H. W. Eagan leading in the devotional exercises.

The only business of the morning session was the presentation and acceptance of the report of the Committee on Credentials.

At 2 P. M. the R. E. Grand Commander read his annual address, in which he congratulates the Sir Knights on the continued prosperity of the Order, the steady increase in the membership notwithstanding the hard times, and the prevalence of peace and harmony in the ranks.

He alludes to those who have been called to the Asylum above from other Grand Jurisdictions, and recommends "memorial pages for all the Knightly dead."

He speaks of the notice sent out for the observance of the Christmas holidays, and advises the Commanderies to meet and observe the same in a Knightly, Christian spirit.

A question of invasion of jurisdiction between the Grand Commandery of New York and that of Washington having arisen, the correspondence in regard thereto is embodied in the address, by which it appears that one Charles O. White, a Master Mason and resident and legal voter of Tacoma, had applied for, and received the Chapter degrees in Oswego, N. Y., and the Orders of Knighthood in Ithaca, N. Y., while temporarily absent from Tacoma for the space of one year. It appearing that the application for the Chapter degrees and the Orders of Knighthood were based on a false statement in regard to residence, he was expelled from both Chapter and Commandery, the fees for the Orders sent to Ivanhoe Commandery, Tacoma, Washington, and the question of invasion amicably settled. Obtaining Masonic honors under false pretenses does not seem to succeed in any jurisdiction.

Eleven dispensations were granted during the year; eight to attend Divine service on Easter Day, one to elect officers at other than the annual convocation, one to appear as escort to the Grand Commandery, and one to ballot and confer Orders "out of the regular time."

In regard to the "Triennial" he says, that considering the stringency of the times and the unsatisfactory condition of some of the Commanderies, it is wise and prudent to forego the luxury of an attendance at the Grand Encampment, and use any money that may have been set apart for that purpose for the benefit of the Subordinate Commanderies, through a reduction of the per capita tax for the present year. The committee to whom the address was referred commended the advice, and the Grand Commandery approved the same.

He quotes and endorses the suggestion of the Grand Commander of Indiana in regard to the use of intoxicating liquors, thus showing that the spirit of the teachings of Templarism is in harmony with total abstinence. The highest ideal of a Knight Templar is not to be found in connection with the demoralizations of the liquor traffic.

The Committee on the Observance of Easter service recommended that the form found in Grant's Tactics be used, in harmony with the services of the church the Commandery elects to attend.

The Committee on Jurisprudence deprecated the granting of a dispensation to ballot and confer Orders out of the regular time, and strongly urges that this *never be done except for the very best of reasons.*

The Committee on Finance found the accounts all correct, the bills all paid and cash on hand to the amount of $812.56.

The following resolution was adopted:

> *Resolved*, That the following be added to all petitions for the Orders: "He is not engaged in any manner in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors."

A grand concert and banquet was given in the evening in honor of the Grand Commandery, by the Sir Knights and their ladies of Seattle Commandery No. 2.

The report on Correspondence is from the pen of Sir Knight Yancey C. Blalock, the Grand Recorder. He uses his "scissors" freely, but selects with care and excellent judgment. He reviews the doings of twenty Grand Commanderies, Massachusetts and Rhode Island receiving due attention, and closes with the avowal that he is still willing to be classed among the "clippers," while "wishing all a kind good-bye."

Membership reported 585, a gain of 2 during the year.

Sir Knight Horace W. Tyler, of Spokane, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight Yancey C. Blalock, of Walla Walla, was re-elected Grand Recorder.

The next annual conclave will be held at Seattle, on Wednesday, June 3, 1896. S.

WEST VIRGINIA, 1896.

A special conclave of the Grand Commandery of West Virginia was held at Grafton, on Thursday, May 6, 1895, for the purpose of constituting De Molay Commandery, which took rank in the West Virginia jurisdiction as No. 11.

The annual conclave convened in the City of Charleston, West Virginia's capital, on Wednesday, May 13, 1896.

The Grand Commander's address is a readable document, devoted to the interests of Templar Masonry. It contains some excellent suggestions in regard to the principles and teachings of Templarism that are worthy of quotation:

> To preserve, unimpaired, without spot or blemish, the proud escutcheon of Templarism as it has descended to us from its illustrious founders, and at the same time keep it abreast of the present advanced period of thought and research, should be among the aims and ambitions of this conclave.
>
> * * * * * * * * *
>
> While we may exult that our lines have fallen in such pleasant places; that our appearance on the stage of this life was allotted to us at the present advanced age of scientific research, of social, moral and intellectual attainments; yet the same precepts which inspired the ancient Templars to deeds of charity and self-abnegation find a larger field for the practice of the Christian virtues, for bigotry, oppression and intolerance, are, alas! yet to be found among the nations of the earth.

He speaks with enthusiasm of the Triennial in Boston and declares that Peter the Hermit who enlisted so many valiant Knights for the Crusades against the Infidels of the Holy Land would have been astonished, could he have seen the array which graced the streets of Boston on that occasion.

Tender words of grateful appreciation were spoken of the Templar dead and the sympathies of all hearts reached out to the bereaved, bearing the hope of a blissful immortality beyond the grave.

Christmas observances were recommended to all the Subordinate Commanderies, but he did not know how extensively the recommendation had been complied with.

Reports from the officers of the Grand Commandery making official visitations, show the Order to be in good condition throughout the jurisdiction, except that there was too much indifference in regard to the possession of uniforms, and the Grand Commander advises some more stringent requirement on the part of the Grand Commandery. The committee, however, to whom the matter was referred, answered that the action of the Grand Commandery at a previous conclave was sufficient. It would be well for the Sir Knights to note the action already taken and conform to the requirements. A Commandery attired in full uniform, at the regular conclaves, is an inspiration to both officers and men that goes far towards making the Order successful, and keeping the standard of character at high water mark.

The Grand Treasurer's report shows an expenditure of $1,900.65, and a balance in the treasury of $294.06.

The statutes and regulations of the Grand Commandery were amended so that the annual assessment on each Sir Knight in the jurisdiction, for the support of the Grand Commandery, should be seventy-five cents.

A committee was appointed to make arrangements for attendance upon the Twenty-seventh Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, to be held in Pittsburg, Pa., in 1898.

The report on Correspondence is from the pen of Sir Knight Albert B. White, who declares it to be his "first and his last report." He is not wise to retire so soon from among the genial society of correspondents, for he wields a facile pen and knows how to make seasonable and sensible comment on the questions that arise in the various jurisdictions.

He commends with hearty appreciation, the character of a Knight Templar as given by the Grand Commander of Arkansas, and has a good word to say in relation to the use of intoxicating drinks at the banquet table, and believes with us all that the display of Masonic emblems on liquor saloons is offensive and incongruous.

He quotes freely, but judiciously, and gives in a clear and comprehensive manner the condition of the Fraternity in forty-two jurisdictions.

Membership reported 878, an increase during the year of 97.

R. E. Sir Knight John C. Rikeldaffer, of Wheeling, was elected Grand Commander, and E. Sir Knight Robert C. Dunnington, of Fairmont, was re-elected Grand Recorder.

The next annual conclave will be held in Wheeling, on the second Wednesday in May, 1897.

S.

WISCONSIN, 1895.

On Tuesday, October 8, 1895, the Grand Commandery of Wisconsin met in the Asylum of Wisconsin Commandery No. 1, in the City of Milwaukee, and was opened in ample form by the Grand Commander, R. E. Eugene S. Elliott, all the Grand Officers being present with the exception of the Grand Prelate, Grand Standard Bearer and Grand Warder.

The annual address of the Grand Commander is an interesting paper, filled with wise counsel and sound argument. We quote the opening paragraphs:

> It is with sincere pleasure that I bid you welcome and extend to you Knightly greeting. The Templar events since last we met in Grand Conclave have been numerous and important; the constituent Commanderies of this jurisdiction have been brought together as never before, so that now we come together with all the delicious *comraderie* that only old campaigners feel when they meet to recount the incidents of honorable careers. But we are not all here. The heavy hand of death has been laid upon some of our most eminent and Knightly fratres; for them no bugle call shall sound until the archangel's trumpet shall summon them to that Celestial Conclave where the Supreme Commander will preside.

He then pays a loving and Knightly tribute to the memory of five members of the Grand Commandery who had passed beneath the portals of the tomb and entered the realms of the immortals. These brethren had done valiant service for the Craft, and their names are cherished as among the best, both in social and in business life, that had ever held a place in the ranks. Of Sir Knight Carpenter, he said:

> He was not only right eminent by virtue of his Templar office, but right eminent in all the affairs of life, and particularly right eminent in the discharge of Knightly duties and the performance of Knightly trusts. The memory of his manifold virtues is transmitted as a priceless heirloom to his successors.

Of all the others a kindly and appreciative word is spoken, that shows how strong and true the Knightly bonds hold the Wisconsin fratres to the memory of their own. But when all is said it is but the old, old story. We love to recall the noble deeds of those we have loved and lost. There is a gleam of comfort in the thought of their earnest effort and loving, loyal devotion. There is a source of strength in their Knightly bearing, and as we remember them our faith grows strong in the service of the truth, and the duties and the trials of life are more bravely met. We help each other when we recall the memories of noble lives. There is hope for the world because of the good these men have done, and heaven does not seem so far away while we remember that such as these have lived and died.

He reports having granted a number of dispensations, but as they involved no important questions he did not deem it wise to rehearse them. Ah! but there lies an interesting fact or fancy, as one may choose to call it. Admitting his claim to be true, is he not establishing a precedent that might sometime cause trouble? Even if the causes are unimportant which call for the interposition of the authority of the Grand Commander, is it not essential to have those causes known?

He regrets, in another instance, having granted a dispensation to allow a Commandery to elect an Eminent Commander to fill a vacancy caused by the removal of the Commander elected at the annual assembly, to a place outside the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery. His first answer was in the negative, but being persuaded by some of the Sir Knights who were most deeply interested in having it done, he rescinded his first action and gave permission to proceed. His first conviction was right. It was the duty of the Generalissimo to take the place and perform the work of the Eminent Commander when absent, as the charge given at his installation, and the teaching of the ritual in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Order most clearly show. Why tell an officer he must do certain things in an emergency, if when that emergency comes we proceed to divest him of the opportunity?

He then calls attention to what he conceives to be a contradiction in the reading of the Statutes, in regard to the office of Eminent Commander, as follows:

> One reads, "The removal from the jurisdiction does not create a vacancy." The other reads, "Whenever a Grand Commander or an Eminent Commander changes his residence to a place beyond the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery, he thereby vacates his office and can exercise its powers no longer." These sections are certainly antagonistic and should be so modified as to state the law as it is intended to exist.

But we do not see the antagonism. No vacancy is created in the office of Grand, or Eminent Commander. It is like the succession in a monarchical form of government. The King dies, but the immediate cry is, "Long live the King." The Eminent Commander dies or goes away, but the Deputy Grand Commander, or Generalissimo is there to take the place and perform its duties, and it is not only his right but his duty so to do. The Commander may vacate, but there is no vacancy in the office for the next officer in rank was told to do all these things should the occasion ever require.

Even the experience of R. E. Sir Knight Elliott himself contradicts his own ruling, as he says near the close of his address:

> As my predecessor, Right Eminent Sir Warren H. Lewis was obliged to leave this jurisdiction shortly after his election to the office of Grand Commander, I have virtually performed the duties of Grand Commander for three years.

The Grand Commander had made an innovation on the customs of the Order in Wisconsin, by causing all the constituent Commanderies to meet in Milwaukee, at the close of his first term in 1894, and engage in a series of exhibition drills or exemplifications of work, out of which has grown a regular system of district gatherings for study and practice. Seven districts were formed, and from two to six Commanderies, according to convenience of location, assigned to each district. These were expected to meet at the designated place, and in the presence of a certain number of the Grand Officers exemplify the work both as regards the opening and closing ceremonies, and also the correct rendition of the work of the Orders. The result has been eminently satisfactory, raising the standard of efficiency in all the Subordinate Bodies, so that the special committee to whom the matter was referred reported that it was desirable "for the

Grand Commandery to adopt such measures as are necessary" to make these gatherings a part of the Templar life of the jurisdiction.

In this connection the R. E. Grand Commander makes a suggestion to which we wish to say "Amen," and trust he will be successful in his designs. We quote his words:

> Each rendezvous was attended by a representative delegation of Templar ladies, but not to the number that was desired. Sir Knights, I cannot too strongly urge this feature upon your attention. In feminine influence Templar Masonry has a force for good that is all powerful. It should no longer be ignored. In ancient times women turned to the Templars for protection; we need not blush to-day to call upon the women for help. Not for any militant qualities which we may assume they possess, but for that gentle, yet vivifying influence which ennobles whatever it touches, and which is an inspiration for everything pure, and beautiful, and good. At our feasts, at our assemblages, upon our Templar excursions, let us no longer neglect this powerful influence. We can have it with us, for the ethics of Templar Masonry appeal strongly to the sentiment of the best of the sex. Let us use it for the good of our Order and for the maintenance of those elevated principles we are sworn to uphold

He has some very pleasant recollections of the Triennial, and is lavish of his praises of the courteous treatment they received from the members of Joseph Warren Commandery, from which we quote a few lines:

> Its courtesy and hospitality has placed Wisconsin under obligations that, let us hope, we may at no distant time be enabled to reciprocate in kind.

Take no thought of that, my dear Sir Knight, the Boston fratres had no intention of laying you under obligations; they were simply determined that the Triennial of 1895 should be a season of true Knightly enjoyment, and that pleasant memories of Boston should remain with those who participated in the festivities of the occasion, while life endures.

On Wednesday morning the Grand Commandery participated in the ceremonies of laying the corner-stone of the building erected by Wisconsin Commandery No. 1, and the Grand Commander gave an appropriate and eloquent address, in which the principles of Templar Masonry were enunciated and reasons given why the perpetuation of the Order is a benefit to mankind.

The report on Correspondence is from the pen of Sir Knight Wm. C. Swain, who for the thirteenth time enlightens the fratres of Wisconsin in regard to the doings of other jurisdictions. He craves the indulgence of his readers in advance, and advises them to "possess their souls in patience" for "thirteen," he says, "is an unlucky number." Why so valiant and sensible a Sir Knight should let such a superstition take control of his thought is a mystery. His very readable paper has no shadow of the baneful influence "on or about it anywhere," and we fail to see how the much abused "thirteen" has deprived the report of a single laurel.

We should like to quote some wise and pithy sayings that this correspondent has thrown into his notes on the various Grand Jurisdictions, but time and space forbid. He has a pleasant repartee for Sir Knight Finch, in his notice of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, from which we infer that were these two champions to meet in social converse there would be some interesting, as well as brilliant rivalry in story telling.

Membership reported 2,848, an increase of 156 during the year.

Sir Knight George H. Hopper, of Racine, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight John W. Laflin, of Milwaukee, was re-elected Grand Recorder. S.

WYOMING, 1896.

Last, but by no means least in standing and importance among our Templar jurisdictions, comes the story of Wyoming.

For nine consecutive years the Sir Knights of the State of Wyoming have met to consider the needs and possibilities of Templar Masonry in that jurisdiction. In this year of our Lord, 1896, the Grand Conclave was held at the Asylum of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 2, in Rawlins, on Wednesday, May 20, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Most of the Grand Officers, and a constitutional number of members being present the Grand Commandery was opened in ample form, the E. Grand Prelate leading the devotions in prayer.

Grand Representatives from ten sister jurisdictions were present, and were received in due Knightly form.

The Grand Commander's address is a Knightly document, in which he sets forth the condition and requirements of the Order in the jurisdiction, and returns the trust committed to him in words of gratitude for the assistance and courteous encouragement received from his companions in office.

His satisfaction in regard to the trip to Boston, which was taken as the guest of Ascalon Commandery was profound, and his words of praise to the officers and members thereof are hearty and unstinted.

Of the five dispensations granted, three were to allow a ballot on the petitions of candidates in less than the constitutional time. He says that good and sufficient reasons were presented, but it is difficult to conceive of any necessity that would justify such departures from constitutional Masonic law. We still maintain that in this regard it is better to adhere to the established custom, and compel those who seek our fellowship to sacrifice personal convenience and conform strictly to the regulations adopted for the government of the growth of the Order.

The Grand Recorder's report shows a satisfactory condition of the Order throughout the jurisdiction, and an earnest desire on the part of the Subordinate Commanderies to maintain the standard of Templary at its proper high level. Christmas observances were participated in by all the Commanderies, and from each Templar heart good wishes and the compliments of the season were sent to the Grand Master.

All the copies of their organization Proceedings being exhausted, the Grand Recorder recommends the printing of a new edition, and the committee to whom the matter was referred advised the issue of 300 copies, which was approved by the Grand Commandery.

The Committees on Grievances, Jurisprudence, Dispensations and New Commanderies, reported that no business or

cause of action had been presented to them during the year, indicating that harmony and good-fellowship prevailed throughout the jurisdiction, while the principles of the valiant and magnanimous Order were observed and honored everywhere.

Suitable words of appreciation and respect were given in the report of the Committee on Necrology, to the memory of the Templar dead, and their names are modestly and lovingly inscribed on the memorial pages of the Proceedings.

There is no report on Correspondence.

There are five Commanderies belonging to this jurisdiction, and a complete roster of the members of each is printed in an appendix to the Proceedings.

An invitation from Ivanhoe Commandery No. 2, was given to the Grand Commandery to attend a banquet immediately after the close of the Grand Conclave, which, as the Proceedings declare "was accepted unanimously."

No account is given of this social and fraternal gathering, but it is allowable to suppose that the event was one of happiness and true Knightly enjoyment.

The next Grand Conclave will be held at Green River, Wyoming, on the second Wednesday in May, A. D. 1897.

R. E. Sir Knight Adrian J. Parshall, of Cheyenne, was elected Grand Commander, and R. E. Sir Knight John C. Baird, of Cheyenne, was re-elected Grand Recorder.

Membership reported 262, an increase of 14 during the year.

S.

STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1895–96.

FURNISHED FOR USE OF COMMITTEE BY EM. SIR BENJ. W. ROWELL,

Grand Recorder of Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

GRAND COMMANDERY OF	Year.	Date of Organization.	Date of Annual Conclave.	Date Printed Proceedings were Received.
Alabama	1896	Nov. 29, 1860	May 13, 1896	....
Arizona	1895	Nov. 16, 1893	Nov. 13, 1895	June 2, 1896
Arkansas	1896	March 23, 1872	April 21, 1896	May 16, 1896
California	1896	Aug. 10, 1858	April 23, 1896	July 22, 1896
Colorado	1896	March 14, 1876	June 2, 1896	Aug. 15, 1896
Connecticut	1896	Sept. 13, 1827	March 17, 1896	April 9, 1896
District of Columbia	1896	Jan. 14, 1896	May 11, 1896	July 28, 1896
Florida	1896	Aug. 15, 1895	May 14, 1896	July 6, 1896
Georgia	1896	April 25, 1860	April 16, 1896	May 15, 1896
Illinois	1895	Oct. 27, 1857	Oct. 23, 1895	Dec 11, 1895
Indian Territory	1896	Dec. 27, 1895	June 22, 1896	....
Indiana	1896	May 16, 1854	April 16, 1896	June 3, 1896
Iowa	1896	June 6, 1864	July 17, 1896	Aug. 21, 1896
Kansas	1896	Dec. 27, 1868	May 13, 1896	June 2, 1896
Kentucky	1896	Oct. 15, 1847	May 27, 1896	July 28, 1896
Louisiana	1896	Feb. 12, 1864	Feb. 14, 1896	April 14, 1896
Maine	1896	May 5, 1852	May 7, 1896	Sept. 21, 1896
Maryland	1895	Jan. 23, 1871	Nov. 26, 1895	Feb. 24, 1896
Mass. and Rhode Island	1896	May 6, 1805	Oct. 29, 1896	....
Michigan	1896	April 7, 1857	May 19, 1896	June 11, 1896
Minnesota	1896	Oct. 23, 1865	June 24, 1896	Aug. 8, 1896
Mississippi	1896	Jan. 21, 1857	Feb. 14, 1896	Aug. 22, 1896
Missouri	1896	May 22, 1860	April 21, 1896	July 30, 1896
Montana	1895	May 14, 1888	Oct. 8, 1895	Dec. 12, 1895
Nebraska	1896	Dec. 27, 1871	April 16, 1896	....
New Hampshire	1896	Jan. 13, 1826	Sept. 29, 1896	....
New Jersey	1896	Feb. 14, 1860	May 12, 1896	June 13, 1896
New York	1896	June 18, 1814	Sept. 8, 1896	....
North Carolina	1896	May 10, 1881	May 14, 1896	June 29, 1896
North Dakota	1896	June 16, 1890	June 12, 1896	Aug. 28, 1896
Ohio	1895	Oct. 24, 1843	Oct. 2, 1895	Jan. 13, 1896
Oregon	1895	April 13, 1887	Oct. 10, 1895	Nov. 25, 1895
Pennsylvania	1896	April 12, 1854	May 27, 1896	Sept. 3, 1896
South Dakota	1896	May 14, 1884	June 12, 1896	Aug. 7, 1896
Tennessee	1896	Oct. 12, 1859	May 15, 1896	May 29, 1896
Texas	1896	Jan. 18, 1855	April 22, 1896	July 22, 1896
Vermont	1896	June 27, 1824	June 9, 1896	July 21, 1896
Virginia	1895	Nov. 27, 1823	Nov. 14, 1895	Jan. 22, 1896
Washington	1896	June 2, 1887	June 3, 1896	Sept. 25, 1896
West Virginia	1896	Feb. 25, 1874	May 13, 1896	Sept. 23, 1896
Wisconsin	1895	Oct. 20, 1859	Oct. 8, 1895	Nov. 25, 1895
Wyoming	1896	March 8, 1888	May 20, 1896	Aug. 31, 1896
Grand Encampment U. S	1895	....	....	....
Canada	1895	Oct. 9, 1855	Aug. 23, 1895	Dec. 3, 1895
England and Wales	1896	....	May 8, 1896	July 6, 1896
Ireland	1896	....	....	....
Scotland	1896	....	....	....
Victoria. Australia	1896	....	....	....

STATISTICAL TABLE—CONTINUED.

GRAND COMMANDERY OF	Year.	Number Knighted.	Number Affiliated.	Number Restored.	Number Dimitted.	Number Suspended.	Number Expelled.	Number Died.	Number of Subordinates.	Number of Members.	Gain over last Report.	Average Membership to each Commandery.
Alabama	1896	23	4	2	7	11	....	6	9	373	6	42
Arizona	1895	14	2	....	....	3	....	2	3	114	11	38
Arkansas	1896	36	4	4	15	31	1	12	13	510	*	39
California	1896	141	94	5	47	70	....	65	36	2,941	58	80
Colorado	1896	74	25	9	42	36	1	26	25	1,651	3	66
Connecticut	1896	164	4	1	6	17	1	46	11	2,298	84	209
District of Columbia	1896	124	17	9	43	17	....	14	5	1,565	....	313
Florida	1896	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	194	....	39
Georgia	1896	50	4	3	16	20	....	12	10	692	9	69
Illinois	1895	598	82	36	221	145	....	123	65	9.355	227	141
Indian Territory	1896	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	113	....	38
Indiana	1896	209	41	11	68	43	1	50	37	3,493	99	94
Iowa	1896	302	67	28	114	127	1	41	56	4,343	170	77
Kansas	1896	236	34	10	158	41	6	36	42	3,247	71	78
Kentucky	1896	145	26	11	55	48	2	38	25	1,931	19	77
Louisiana	1896	28	3	3	2	1	....	7	4	328	23	82
Maine	1896	256	21	4	30	39	....	49	19	3,067	163	160
Maryland	1895	100	37	3	31	15	....	16	10	1,087	90	109
Mass. and Rhode Island	1896	628	47	3	87	115	1	181	45	11,789	293	262
Michigan	1896	255	35	8	80	69	3	62	44	5,457	84	126
Minnesota	1896	152	55	8	75	35	2	26	25	2,411	77	97
Mississippi	1896	34	3	5	4	12	....	10	12	441	11	36
Missouri	1896	332	135	15	92	85	....	48	57	4,234	204	86
Montana	1895	14	2	2	9	22	....	3	8	324	....	40
Nebraska	1896	98	24	11	39	32	....	6	23	1,712	56	75
New Hampshire	1896	113	41	3	43	6	....	41	11	2,060	67	187
New Jersey	1896	165	11	....	19	26	....	25	16	1.736	117	108
New York	1896	780	52	61	82	316	2	166	58	10.710	327	187
North Carolina	1896	20	2	....	7	8	....	8	11	347	*	32
North Dakota	1896	31	8	1	10	1	....	4	7	427	25	61
Ohio	1895	586	184	46	208	133	6	121	54	7,914	348	147
Oregon	1895	32	7	....	6	2	....	10	6	404	21	68
Pennsylvania	1896	664	83	....	113	208	6	145	73	11.218	275	154
South Dakota	1896	56	4	4	38	59	....	8	11	752	*	68
Tennessee	1896	62	16	12	20	27	....	18	15	1,090	25	73
Texas	1896	164	30	11	67	55	2	32	31	2.129	49	68
Vermont	1896	93	11	....	21	3	....	17	10	1,458	62	145
Virginia	1895	135	22	7	39	26	1	24	21	1,457	92	70
Washington	1896	51	13	3	18	36	...	6	9	592	7	65
West Virginia	1896	123	4	1	9	12	....	10	11	878	97	80
Wisconsin	1895	166	40	7	85	8	....	38	27	2,718	49	101
Wyoming	1896	25	2	1	9	1	....	5	5	262	14	53
Grand Encampment U. S.	1895	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	27	1,562	97	58
Totals in United States.	......	7279	1296	348	2035	1961	36	1567	995	111,424	3530	....
Canada	1895	159	9	4	35	24	....	18	34	1,368	95	40
England and Wales	1896	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	120	2,477	....	20
Ireland	1896	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	43	1,300	....	29
Scotland	1896	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	20	465	...	23
Victoria, Australia	1896	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	109	....	22
Total in the World	......	7438	1305	352	2070	1985	36	1585	1217	117,143	3625	....

* Loss.

CONCLUSION.

We have desired to review the Proceedings of all Grand Commanderies in the United States, and have only failed to do so by reason of not having received the Proceedings of Minnesota for 1896. Our report also includes a review of the Great Priory of Canada, for the current year. It will be noticed that our report is well "up to date," so far as dealing with the latest issued Proceedings in almost every case. It is after the summer vacation that we take up the correspondent's pen, to furnish copy; and these closing pages are written less than two weeks before the annual meeting of our Grand Commandery.

We submit this report, wishing that it were more complete, more comprehensive, and better calculated to serve the purposes which your Committee on Correspondence have sought to keep steadily in view. Its preparation has required the examination of numerous volumes, some of them of considerable bulk, and however hastily the reading has been done, many items alike interesting and suggestive must have been gleaned from the pages thus brought under notice; and these items, covering a wide range of thought and movement, are set forth, with more or less of comment, in the report herewith presented. We cherish a hope that this report may be read by a goodly number of the Sir Knights, who will each receive a copy, not because any special merit attaches to our work, but because they may thus be aided to perceive what expression Masonic Templarism is making of itself, both in its expansion of organic life and its legislation; and, also, what are the strong motives which should influence us to a hearty support of the Templar Order.

Our examination of Proceedings makes evident the fact that the members of this Order are thoroughly united in a purpose to maintain the principles and honor of the organization, and to make its usefulness keep pace with its increase in numbers and material resources. The fellowship among Commanderies and Sir Knights throughout the land is sweet and strong. There is a feeling of comradeship among the members which in itself is prophetic of augmented power

and service. There are no matters now under discussion which are likely to provoke acrimonious debates and lead to harmful results. There are, indeed, very few disturbing questions. Of course there are still manifest many differences of views respecting important subjects, and not all the doors of opportunity for severe criticism have yet been closed; but there is a nearness of fellowship now apparent, delightful to witness as signifying an application of the true principles of Templarism and giving promise of the forward movement of our Order in the fulfilment of its benign mission among men.

Some of the questions concerning which a marked difference of opinion prevails, relate to subjects which, although interesting, are not of greatest importance. Among these may be included the Grand Representative question; the right application of Masonic and Templar law in the matter of jurisdiction; the providing of a proper system of inspection for Commanderies; the fixing of permanent headquarters for the Grand Encampment; the limiting of Grand Commanders in the exercise of the dispensing power; the deciding as to when and in what manner Commanderies may appear in public, and whether or not they should carry the national colors in parade; these with numerous other questions bearing upon ritual, ceremony, uniform, the observance of days, etc., receive a due amount of consideration at the hands of reviewers and others. This is well; then there are other questions of a more vital character. In this classification are two or three topics, treated in our notices of the various jurisdictions, concerning which we are moved to offer a few additional words.

The Commandery status of non-affilated Master Masons is one of the important subjects still under discussion. The Grand Encampment has passed upon the matter, declaring that Lodge affiliation is not a requisite for continued membership in a Commandery. This seems equitable; but it is not to be taken as a declaration against the sovereignty of a Grand Lodge in any jurisdiction. In the last resort *that* must prevail. It may well be maintained, however, as a fundamental principle of Masonic law, that no brother should be deprived of Lodge privileges without a hearing, and that it is not fair to put a demitted Mason, against whom no charge of unmasonic conduct has been preferred, under the same ban as another duly found guilty of wrong-doing. There is a distinction in the two cases; there should be a difference in the Commandery status. "Lodge discipline," as all must admit, "affects Templar standing;" but it seems to be an arbitrary stretch of authority for a Grand Lodge to so legislate as to force an unaffiliated brother, never convicted of any crime, out of his Templar standing.

Another question just now attracting attention pretains to the recognition of a Templar creed. Shall such a creed be established? If so, what precise doctrines and definitions of doctrine ought it to include? What tests of faith should the Templar profession require? In one of the jurisdictions membership in an Evangelical Church is affirmed to be a proper prerequisite into the Order of Knights Templars. From other jurisdictions came the avowal that belief in the Trinity ought to be maintained as an essential test in fixing the eligibility of candidates for the Order. Others intimate that this or that amount of religious faith should be cherished by Templars, else it were well for them "to tear the crosses from their regalia, and lay them away as relics of superstition." We hold that it is neither practicable nor desirable for the Templar Body to formulate a special creed. It may well be content to stand on its present broad and ample platform, requiring every candidate to avow himself a *firm believer in the Christian religion*, and, being admitted to the Order, to conduct himself ever afterward as a Christian gentleman. He must have belief in the eternal verities pertaining to God and His moral government over the human world, belief in Christ as Immanuel, divinely commissioned to bless and save mankind, belief in the resurrection and in the life to come, else he would be no proper candidate to kneel in the Asylum and take upon himself the pledges of a Knight Templar. But having so much of qualification, having a sincere purpose to take service under the Great Captain of our Salvation and to walk obediently to His precepts, why should the candidate be asked to subscribe to the technical doctrines of a creed? Why should he be required to define his thought and faith respecting doctrines, very differently understood by schoolmen and theologian? Our Order is Christian—permeated all through and through—in its ritual, symbolism, and declared principles—by the spirit and power of Christ our Lord. If we can but realize what is thus taught and implied, we shall indeed stand in a large place and on a solid foundation, as workers together in that applied Christianity for which the world of today so anxiously watches and waits.

We rejoice that among the questions treated by Correspondents, often with great earnestness and ability, are those which pertain to the duties of related life and to the welfare of humanity. Knights Templars cannot be indifferent to the cries of the struggling and the oppressed. Thus do we find ourselves in sympathy with the persecuted Armenians, and our prayers go forth for their deliverance from the cruel Turk. We marvel that the protest of the Christian powers at this juncture should be so weak. We would do all that is possible to stimulate a wholesome public sentiment, to the end that measures may be promptly taken to stop the atrocities which thrill with indignation the whole Christian world.

And so, likewise, in matters nearer home, as brought to our attention by the various movements to alleviate the ills and minister to the needs of the distressed of our race, we have cause for gratification that Knights Templars show some appreciation of the obligations which devolve upon them as professed followers of Him who went about doing good, and whose significant utterance was: "I am among you as one that serveth." We lack His spirit—we fail to reach the heights of the Templar's vision—unless we realize that

> "Sweet charity is nobility's true badge."

We do not reach the uppermost grade until we have learned by experience the truth of the Master's words: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Thus do we find in the last analysis the mission of our Order declared. It exists for service. Its principles and its professions alike demand a chivalric devotion to truth and right, a giving and doing, out of any strength, or wisdom, or grace we may possess, for the good of others. Then, in such service, and as we keep our hearts loving and pure, we best meet the tests of Christian knighthood, for,

> However it be, it seems to me
> 'Tis only noble to be good.
> Kind hearts are more than coronets,
> And simple faith than Norman blood.

The zest of life comes in such service, joined with faith and love, and there are no other satisfactions comparable therewith. What would earth be without friends and friendship? As brothers and Sir Knights, we have learned how blessed is the fellowship of kindred souls, how helpful the associations into which we may enter here on the earth, and how uplifting the truths we have been taught which point to the bright, advancing way that leads to the immortal land! Thus cometh peace to the tired and troubled soul. Thus cometh the highest satisfaction of being, as we go forward in the paths to which our feet are appointed; as we live not selfishly, but for the good of others; as we follow our risen Lord, and trust in His assurances of Heavenly peace and blessedness. So shall we be strong to stand in our places, to bear earth's burdens, to meet its ills, to do the best work of which we are capable, and to rejoice in such service, for our hearts will be singing all the time that noble pledge,

> I live for those who love me,
> For those who know me true;
> For the heaven that smiles above me,
> And awaits my spirit too:
> For the cause that lacks assistance,
> For the wrong that needs resistance,
> For the future in the distance,
> And the good that I can do.

Fraternally submitted,

HENRY W. RUGG,
THOS. E. ST. JOHN,

October, 1896.

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1897.

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